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Somebody's watching you

Web history, card activity, hydro use, transit travels.... Is nothing safe from prying government and corporate eyes? PAGES 22 & 23

Coast Mountain Santa rides again

Company has a change of heart and lets one of its drivers don that familiar red suit on the job after a public outcry PAGE 6

HE'S STILL KIND OF A BIG DEAL

WILL FERRELL TALKS ABOUT ANCHORMAN 2 AND ITS MANY CAMEOS — BUT WILL THERE BE JAZZ FLUTE? PAGE 33

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A sex worker is seen on a street corner in East Vancouver in this 2007 file photo. Vancouver is looking to repeal a bylaw from 1923 that prevents sex workers from entering bars. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Bylaw banning sex workers from clubs may be axed

Report. A repeal is one of the recommendations made by Vancouver's Sex Trade Task Force

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

The City of Vancouver is looking to repeal an anachronistic 1923 bylaw that requires club managers to stop sex workers from entering their premises, based on recommendations from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI).

The 90-year-old law states that a manager must not allow a "prostitute or person of evil repute" to enter a club.

Historian Daniel Francis, author of Red Light Neon: A History of Vancouver's Sex Trade, said Thursday police have always exercised discretion when it comes to enforcing laws pertaining to the sex trade, but the abolishment of this little-known bylaw can only be a good thing.

"It would seem to me, generally, that working inside is safer than working on the streets," he said, "so anything that allows people to get off the streets seems to me, in principle, to be a good thing."

Club regulation bylaw No. 2647 came into effect in an era when the public had a somewhat more moralistic attitude toward sex work than it does today, he said.

Quoted

"It would seem to me, generally, that working inside is safer than working on the streets, so anything that allows people to get off the streets seems to me, in principle, to be a good thing."

Historian Daniel Francis

"Generally speaking, the policy toward prostitution was to confine it to brothels and confine the brothels to the east side of the city," he said.

But in 1975, a "squeaky clean" new police chief, Don Winterton, ordered a raid that ended decades of relative tolerance for the indoor sex industry at the famous Penthouse Night Club on Seymour Street.

The crackdown pushed prostitution out onto the streets of the West End, particularly Denman and Davie streets, creating a veritable "sex supermarket."

"Finally, the provincial government issued an injunction and forced them out," Francis recounted. "So the whole story of prostitution in Vancouver is largely forcing the women from one dark corner to another, and the result is that (scholars) draw a connection between the Penthouse and Robert Pickton, that (workers) keep being forced into darker corners and made more vulnerable."

The city's Sex Trade Task Force, established in 2011, made the recommendation to repeal the bylaw in a report released on Thursday. The report also asks the city to approve $100,600 in grants for three organizations to support the MWCI's recommendations.

The funds would be split evenly between Battered Women's Support Services to help sex workers transition out of the industry, the Vancouver School Board for preventative education, and PLEA Community Services of B.C. to help create online outreach programs for at-risk youth.

The city is currently in the process of hiring two full-time staff members, at a total cost of $198,800 per year, whose sole job will be to liaise with sex workers, city staff and police to try to prevent and address violence and exploitation in vulnerable communities.

The city is also in the process of training 80 front-line city staff, such as Park Board and library employees, to identify and respond to signs of sexual exploitation.

The report will be considered by the city's finance and services committee next Wednesday.

NEWS 1

Sixty-four conditions

Province gives eco-approval to jet-fuel pipeline

The provincial government has given environmental-assessment approval to Vancouver International Airport's controversial jet-fuel delivery project.

Ministers Mary Polak and Rich Coleman made the announcement Thursday afternoon, stressing 64 conditions that the project — which is opposed by the City of Richmond — must adhere to in order to mitigate risk.

Vancouver Airport Fuel Facilities Corp. plans to ship jet fuel to a new terminal at the south arm of the Fraser River by tanker and transport it to the airport via a 15-kilometre pipeline through Richmond.

Conditions include having double-hulled tankers be escorted into the river by two tugs, implementing automatic leak- and fire-detection systems and the development of a fire-safety plan with Richmond, Delta and Provincial Emergency Services.

"The numbers clearly demonstrated to us how necessary this project is to the long-term success of our airport," said Elio Luongo, the 2013-14 chair of the Vancouver Board of Trade, in a statement.

"Not only is YVR's current fuel-delivery system operating at full capacity, but the airport is forced to bring in an average of 1,000 tanker trucks of jet fuel each month from Washington state."

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Montreal hopes to follow Vancouver's injection-site lead

Blazing a trail.
Montreal plans to seek approval for four centres before feds crack down

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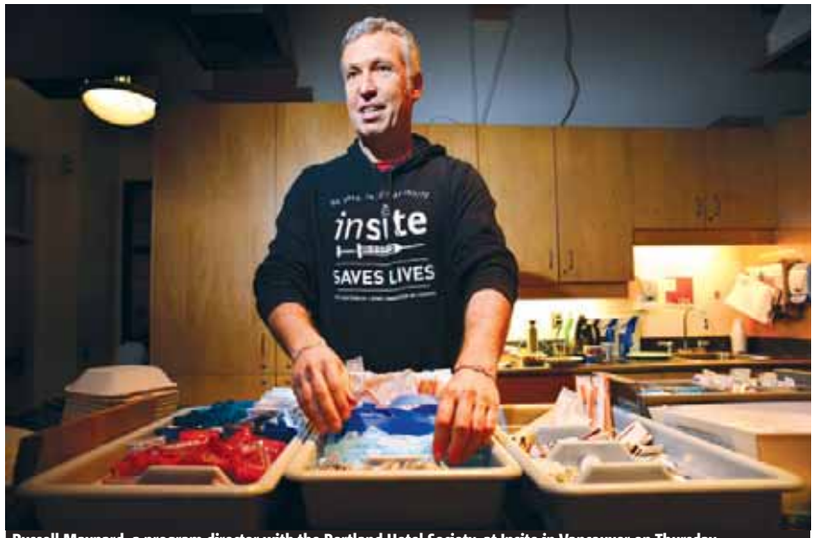

Russell Maynard, a program director with the Portland Hotel Society, at Insite in Vancouver on Thursday.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Vancouver may not be the only jurisdiction in North America to have supervised drug-injection sites for long.

Montreal Public Health announced Thursday that it intends to apply for Health Canada exemptions to operate four supervised injection sites.

The plan, expected to cost $2.7 million a year, includes three permanent sites and one mobile centre that will allow at-risk drug users to inject drugs with clean equipment and under the supervision of nurses.

Richard Massé, director of Montreal Public Health, said the city has an estimated 4,000 drug users. A quarter of them are homeless and 18 per cent are HIV positive.

"It's a fairly significant population," said Massé. "With these centres, we very well might be able to serve 300 or 400 to 600 people a day."

Vancouver is currently the only city in North America with supervised injection sites.

It has two, one at the Dr. Peter Centre in the West End treating patients with HIV/AIDS as well as Insite in the Downtown Eastside.

Massé said his team has visited and consulted with staff at both sites. Insite architect Sean McEwen has even redesigned plans for one of the proposed Montreal sites.

But officials in Montreal know they still face an uphill battle.

The Conservative government in June introduced the Respect for Communities Act, aimed at toughening the application process for Health Canada approval for supervised drug-consumption sites.

Massé intends to submit Montreal Public Health's plans to Health Canada for approval before the legislation is passed, and hopes the Supreme Court's ruling against the government in its bid to shut down Insite will offer some protection.

Exemplar

"The evaluations on Insite have been invaluable to us. It's been significant because we can show the benefits it has to our communities."
Richard Massé, director of Montreal Public Health

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City to celebrate NYE 2015 in style

First time in 2 decades. Event organizers in place after Twitter chatter sparks public party

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

For the first time in more than 20 years, Vancouver will host a New Year's Eve party.

And the celebration, slated for Dec. 31, 2014, got started with a tweet.

When Vancity Buzz editors tweeted to Mayor Gregor Robertson a few years ago asking why the city didn't host a party on Dec. 31, the mayor responded that they should plan one.

And that's exactly what editors Karm Sumal and Kenneth Chan, co-founders of the newly minted New Year's Eve Celebration Society, did.

"We're hoping we can make it something really amazing," Sumal said at a press conference announcing the festivities Thursday.

An "all star team" will organize the family-friendly, televised party complete with food trucks, music and 10 minutes of fireworks at Jack Poole Plaza.

While residents and tourists alike have long clamoured for such an affair — Mayor Gregor Robertson said he's flooded with messages asking for a party every December — no one has stepped up to run the show since First Night in 1992.

It's unclear how much the event will cost or how many people will attend. City council will wait until it hears a business plan from the NYE Society before it decides how much money to spend on the party, Robertson said.

Karm Sumal, editor at Vancity Buzz and co-founder of the NYE Celebration Society. For the first time in more than two decades, Vancouver will celebrate New Year's Eve with a family-friendly celebration next year. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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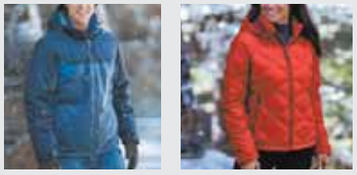

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Given notice

Abbotsford moves to evict homeless

The residents of an Abbotsford homeless camp have nowhere else to go, but the city issued a notice to evict them Thursday night.

The city told them to get off its property in the parking lot adjacent to Jubilee Park by 6 p.m. or it will take "whatever steps it deems appropriate" to remove the structure, according to a statement from PIVOT Legal Society lawyer DJ Larkin.

Abbotsford police were on scene to keep the peace while the city posted the notices.

Larkin is attempting to put an emergency stop to the order until a hearing on Monday where the city will fight for an injunction to clear out the camp.

Kicking out the people before the hearing is "unfair and premature," Larkin argues.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Legislature building

Sci-fi-like device to monitor dome movements

British Columbia politicians are preparing to use what one assembly member says is a Flash Gordon-type device to monitor any movements of the provincial legislature's green dome.

An all-party committee decided to bring in an accelerometer to measure movements of the dome at the more than 100-year-old building.

Speaker of the legislature Linda Reid said the device will be attached to the dome area and is capable of detecting any movement.

New Democrat committee member John Horgan said the measuring device sounds like it's straight out of Flash Gordon, but at least it relieves public tensions about the building's safety.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missing since 1975. B.C. coroner's unit identifies body of young man

The BC Coroners Service has solved a mystery for the family of a young man who disappeared almost 40 years ago.

Alexander Gammie, 22, was reported missing in May 1975 by his family in Kamloops, B.C., but it wasn't until this year that the coroners' Identification and Disaster Response Unit managed to piece together cold-case clues and identify Gammie as the man whose body was found in Vancouver later that year.

Bill Inkster, manager of the unit, said it didn't take long to identify Gammie from his dental records once they took in the file.

Investigators matched up the time frame the body was found and the missing report and started looking for links. The unit also had DNA from family members but, in the end, didn't need it, he said.

"I quickly looked at the dental aspects of this and put it out to our dental experts," Inkster said. "I was a big day for us."

The unit, formed about seven years ago, has solved a number of cold-case files for family members, but Inkster said such solutions are still rare.

"It's so important for families, it's unbelievable the relief they feel when they get these people back," he said.

Inkster wouldn't say how Gammie died, deferring to the family to release that information.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bus driver wins right to wear Santa suit

Ho, ho, hop on. Public went Team Santa over Team Bureaucracy

Forget the sleigh — in Vancouver, Santa officially drives the bus.

Bus driver Kirk Rockwell, a.k.a. the "rebel with a Claus," is once more allowed to wear a Santa suit during the holiday season after a public outcry prompted Coast Mountain Bus Company to lift its ban on his festive outfit.

"It was the right thing to do," said Stan Sierpina, Coast Mountain vice-president of operations.

The company had banned Rockwell from dressing up this year — even though he'd worn the suit without complaint on the 27 and 28 bus routes for 16 years — because it could affect his personal safety and passengers' ability to recognize the driver.

But the company underestimated how much people valued Rockwell's festive spirit, Sierpina said, and was surprised when hundreds weighed in online (everyone was on Team Santa).

"Santa always in wins in the court of public opinion," he said. "We didn't want to take him on."

Local 111 union president Nathan Woods said it was unfortunate Coast made the decision in the first place, but he's glad they've come to their senses. "Santa did arrive early this year," Woods said. "Coast did the right thing and restored the faith, at least temporarily."

Coast Mountain plans to review its year-old uniform policy to determine how to deal with such situations. Part of its logic for banning the suit was to apply the same policy across the board — it often gets requests from its 3,000 operators to wear clothing promoting a charity or an event.

The company has an annual Toys for Tots campaign that donates thousands of gifts.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

A shuttle? Or a reindeer? It's confusing. COURTESY TRANSLINK

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Surrey. Stabbing reported minutes after carjacker becomes carjackee

The carjacker became the carjackee in Surrey on Wednesday night, but police can't say yet whether the incident is connected to a stabbing that happened a few blocks away just 10 minutes later.

Mounties say a South Asian man and woman approached the driver of a 2003 Dodge Caravan as he was getting out at an Esso station around 10:30 p.m. at King George Boulevard and 104th Avenue.

The victim told police the man threatened him with a small machete and demanded his keys, but before the suspect could drive off in the van, two other white men in their 20s approached.

They began arguing and physically fighting with the first would-be thief, and then one of the two white men managed to get in the front seat and drive away, according to RCMP.

The South Asian man and woman were last seen walking southbound on King George, while the other white man who was left behind was last seen walking northbound.

The van, with license plate 823 RWF, was last seen driving northbound on King George. The owner of the van was not injured.

Just 10 minutes later, a 37-year-old man phoned police to report he had been stabbed with what looked like a "small sword" two blocks north of the gas station after being approached by a "dark skinned" man and woman. The victim said there had been a verbal altercation but would not tell police what it was about, according to police. He is in hospital in stable condition.

Surrey RCMP said Thursday that although there are clear similarities between the incidents, they could not confirm a connection.

Police are asking anyone with information to call RCMP at 604-599-0502 or Crime Stoppers. KATE WEBB/METRO

Air Canada Jazz

Engine fire forces landing

An engine fire on an Air Canada Jazz passenger jet forced an emergency landing at Nanaimo's airport on Thursday. Glen Friesen of the Transportation Safety Board says the plane had taken off when passengers noticed the engine fire. He says the engine was shut down and the plane returned to the airport. Thirty-five passengers were evacuated on the tarmac.

Russ Burke, chairman of the Nanaimo Airport Commission, says emergency crews quickly put out the fire and all passengers got off the plane without injury.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beladean Trailer Park

Power restored, but troubles not over

The power is back on at the notorious Beladean Trailer Park in Surrey, but the troubles aren't over yet for 88-year-old resident Lillian Bailey, who was promised a manufactured home by the owners as compensation for 12 weeks of misery.

The park owners' failure to hire a health and safety co-ordinator to supervise the demolition of the Beladean Motel in September caused the power outage, according to WorkSafeBC. They reached a tentative deal last week to buy Bailey a new home, but that deal fell through for reasons beyond their control. KATE WEBB/METRO

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The former Ramada Inn on Hastings Street in East Vancouver. ELIZABETH HAMES/METRO

Angry residents crash info session

Short-term shelter. Mob of dozens derail meeting, upset about city's plan to turn hotel into temporary residences for homeless

An emotionally charged mob stormed an East Vancouver hotel Wednesday night, derailing what was expected to be a quiet information session about temporary housing for the homeless.

Dozens of residents jammed into the Ramada lobby, upset about a city plan to turn 3475 East Hastings St. into short-term housing for 40 people.

The event quickly became confrontational as a handful of Cantonese-speaking residents shouted at a staff member.

Soon, Coun. Kerry Jang, who speaks Cantonese, appeared in the middle of the mob flanked by two police officers. He said staff had called him in to quell the chaos. "We didn't anticipate 100 Chinese people coming and yelling," he said later.

But Jang only provided a focal point for their anger.

Residents encircled the councillor and shouted their concerns, which ranged from the city's failure to seek input from residents to what would happen to the building when residents move out.

Some even questioned the burden such high-calibre rooms would put on taxpayers.

"It's too nice," said a woman from the scrum, noting the city recently bought the property for $7.3 million.

However, the most common questions related to who exactly would be moving in. Residents feared their new neighbours would resort to panhandling or doing drugs around nearby Sir John Franklin Elementary School.

But organizers assured them those scenarios wouldn't play out. "They behave like normal, common citizens in a community," said Gordon Weibe, chair of the Community Builders Benevolence Foundation, which will run the facility.

The new residents, who are currently living at a shelter operated by the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, will start paying rent at the Ramada as early as Dec. 16. They will live there until the fall of 2014, when permanent BC Housing accommodation becomes available.

ELIZABETH HAMES/METRO

Mayor's reaction

Community reaction 'unfortunate'

Gregor Robertson talks to reporters Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Mayor Gregor Robertson is concerned that neighbours of the East Vancouver Ramada are upset because they don't understand who is moving into the hotel.

"They think it's some sort of shelter that's going to be dangerous in the neighbourhood, which is not the case," Robertson said Thursday.

"It is interim housing. It's people moving from shelters on their way to permanent housing," he said, adding the city has moved 500 people into permanent homes in the last few years.

"It's unfortunate to hear that people were upset," Robertson said.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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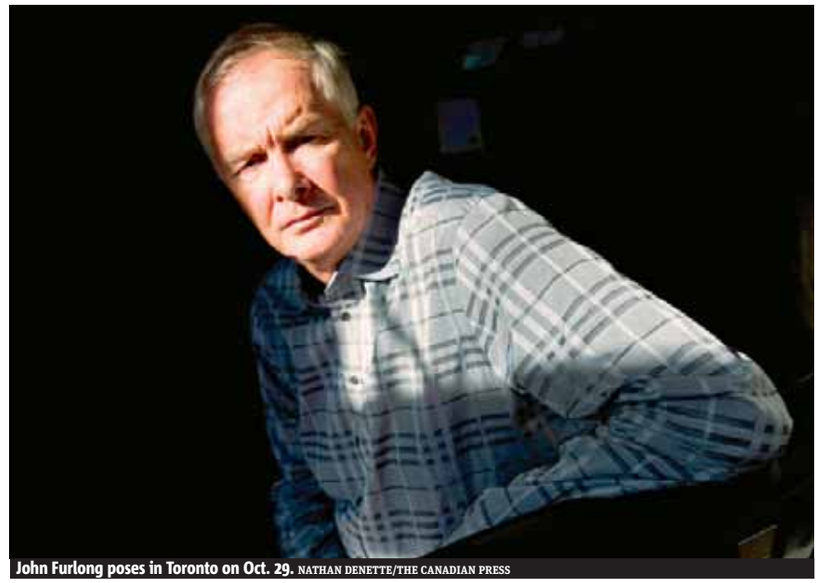

John Furlong poses in Toronto on Oct. 29. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Furlong says he is exonerated

Allegations. Three people, including Beverly Abraham, have filed lawsuits against Furlong claiming sexual abuse

Former Vancouver Olympic CEO John Furlong says the RCMP have closed an investigation into allegations of sexual assault against him by a former student and found no evidence to support criminal charges, prompting him to declare he's been "fully cleared" in one of a series of allegations and lawsuits facing him.

The allegations stem from Furlong's time teaching in northern B.C. in the late 1960s and early 1970s, which first surfaced in a newspaper article last year. The article quoted several people who said they were former students and claimed to have been verbally and physically abused by Fulong. It's now the subject of a libel lawsuit by Furlong targeting the author.

Three people, including Beverly Abraham, have filed lawsuits against Furlong alleging sexual abuse, and the RCMP launched its own investigation into Abraham's claims.

Furlong publicly released a letter Thursday written by an RCMP investigator in Prince George, under the heading: "John Furlong — allegation of sexual assault."

"Based on the facts uncovered, the allegations made by Beverly Abraham are not supported," wrote Cpl. Quinton Mackie in a letter sent to Furlong's lawyer, dated Dec. 5.

"Reasonable and probable grounds do not exist on which to recommend charges against John Furlong to Crown counsel. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are no longer investigating John Furlong with respect to this allegation."

Furlong issued a written statement in which he said the RCMP's letter to him "fully exonerates" him with respect to Abraham's allegations. He said his lawyers would be requesting a trial date to deal with her lawsuit.

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Rob Ford. Reporter serves mayor libel notice

Mayor Rob Ford was slapped with a libel notice late Thursday for televised comments he made about a reporter, who said the remarks amounted to an accusation of pedophilia.

Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale would not comment on his suit that also names Vision TV, which aired the Ford interview, saying an article he wrote for his newspaper would have to stand.

"Enough is enough. I can't tolerate it. I won't tolerate it," Dale wrote.

"I'm asking Ford to immediately retract the false insinuation that I am a pedophile. I am also serving Vision TV, which twice broadcast Ford's vile and defamatory remarks ... even though their interview was filmed days before it aired."

The notice also calls for Vision TV to apologize.

Ford said a day after the interview that he stood by "every word."

He left city hall Thursday evening without saying anything. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said at a news conference on Tuesday that he stands by "every word" he said during a televised interview in which he appeared to accuse a reporter of being a pedophile. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kim Jong-un's uncle executed by N. Korea

Pyongyang. News report calls him 'a traitor to the nation' and 'worse than a dog'

North Korea on Friday announced the execution of Kim Jong-un's uncle, calling the leader's former mentor a traitor who tried to overthrow the state.

The announcement came only days after Pyongyang announced through state media that Jang Song Thaek — long considered the country's No. 2 power — had been removed from all his posts because of allegations of corruption, drug use, gambling, womanizing and leading a "dissolute and depraved life."

The state news agency KCNA said a tribunal examined Jang's crimes, including "attempting to overthrow the state by all sorts of intrigues and despicable methods with a wild ambition to grab the supreme power of our party and state."

Jang was seen as helping Kim Jong-un consolidate power after the death of his father, Kim Jong-il, two years ago. Jang was the latest and most significant in a series of personnel reshuffles that Kim has conducted in an apparent effort to bolster his power.

Some analysts see the purge as a sign of Kim Jong-un's growing confidence, but there has also been fear in Seoul that the removal of such an important part of the North's government — seen by outsiders as the leading supporter of Chinese-style economic reforms — could create dangerous instability or lead to a miscalculation or attack on the South.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People watch a TV news program at Seoul Railway Station, South Korea, on Monday showing Jang Song Thaek being grabbed at a meeting of Workers Party's Central Committee in Pyongyang the day before. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Anti-government protests continue in Thailand

A protester uses a pair of wire cutters to snap and remove barbed wire erected by Thai police over the fence of the prime minister's office in Bangkok on Thursday. Protesters waging a surreal political fight to oust Thailand's elected prime minister are trying to establish what amounts to a parallel government — one complete with "security volunteers" to replace the police, a foreign policy of their own and a central committee that has already begun issuing audacious orders. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blinded Chinese boy receives prosthetic eyes

Recovery. Six-year-old boy whose eyes were gouged was successfully fitted with prosthetics that look and move like normal eyes, but don't restore vision

Guo Bin — nicknamed Binbin — danced to music at a send-off ceremony at the C-MER Dennis Lam Eye Hospital in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, where he expressed gratitude and happiness more than three months after a brutal attack left him blind.

The prosthetic eyes look and move much like normal eyes, but they do not restore vision. Doctors plan to fit Binbin with navigation sensors next summer that would allow him to get around on his own in familiar places.

Guo Bin smiles on Wednesday as he shows a card he drew saying "Thanks" at the hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police in the boy's hometown in northern China's Shanxi province say they suspect his aunt was the culprit in the attack, although they have not identified a motive. The woman has since committed suicide, and Binbin's parents have raised doubts.

On Thursday, the boy's mother said Binbin can put on his clothes, brush his teeth and climb stairs by himself, according to reports in Hong Kong media.

"He has adapted well and is smart," his mother, Wang Wenli, said before thanking the medical staff.

The attack on the boy horrified the Chinese public and added to outrage over violence against children. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Children run along a towpath between houses in this photo taken in April in Qunu, South Africa. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Qunu preps for Mandela funeral

Massive event. Final goodbye comes with major challenges for tiny village

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

The population of Qunu is just under 300, but a mass invasion is underway ahead of Nelson Mandela's funeral Sunday, when the village where Madiba grew up hosts one of the largest events in South African history.

"There is a lot of people and a lot of disruption," said a spokesperson at the Nelson Mandela Museum, the largest building in Qunu, the site of a marquee for the world's media.

Much larger temporary structures are being hastily constructed to host the ceremony and its 5,000 guests, with officials admitting work is behind schedule. Eleven venues in the local area will screen the funeral for those unable to attend, with up to 70,000 expected, and accommodation prices rising sharply across the region.

Roads leading to the village will be blocked, and the local airport in Mthatha will become reserved for around 100 private jets.

Quoted

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Storms destroy refugee homes

Jordan. Zaatari camp, home to 120,000 refugees, has flooded in areas due to heavy rains

Refugee children play by a snowman in a camp for Syrians who fled their country's civil war, in eastern Lebanon, Thursday. MOHAMMED ZAATARI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrians at a sprawling refugee camp in northern Jordan scrambled to batten down their tents against torrential rains and high winds as a blustery winter storm battered parts of the Middle East for a second day Thursday.

The storm, dubbed Alexa, has pounded much of Lebanon and parts of northern Syria, pushing temperatures below zero and dumping snow and heavy rains.

Syrian refugees across the region were among the hardest hit by the storm, which heaped another layer of misery on the already grim existence of many of the more than two million Syrians who have fled the civil war raging in their homeland.

At Jordan's sprawling Zaatari refugee camp, wind toppled at least 10 tents Wednesday night, leaving residents vulnerable to freezing temperatures.

"It was very cold, windy and muddy and all I was able to think of is how to protect my wife and four children," said Ali Shatri, 36.

In some parts of Israel and the West Bank, government offices and schools shuttered. In the Gaza Strip, the Health Ministry said authorities evacuated 30 people to hospitals and moved others into shelters after outages and flooding. A lack of fuel meant municipalities could not pump it out, so they tried to close streets with sand bags to channel water away from homes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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WestJet free-gift video exceeding expectations

15 million views.
Airline went all Oprah on hundreds of travellers and got a big brand boost for its trouble

WestJet's gift-giveaway stunt has become a YouTube smash. SCREEN GRAB

While WestJet insists its holiday gift-giving stunt that spawned a viral video wasn't intended to be a commercial in disguise, marketing experts say the Canadian airline's brand is getting an invaluable boost as the YouTube hit count continues to surge.

In the video, which surpassed 15 million views on Thursday, the airline hatches an elaborate holiday surprise for more than 250 travellers heading to Calgary on flights from Toronto and Hamilton.

WestJet customers are seen stumbling upon a video kiosk that connects them with a blue-suited Santa Claus, who asks what they'd like for Christmas. A family asks for a big TV, a boy wants a tablet, and one man asks for socks and underwear.

WestJet staff then scramble to buy the gifts to fill those requests, which are wrapped and delivered via a luggage carousel in Calgary. The shocked reaction of the passengers as they realize what WestJet has done is a feel-good tearjerker.

"They pulled it off in stunning fashion," said Mitch Joel, president of Twist Image.

WestJet said it had hoped the video would generate 200,000 views. "It makes WestJet stand out as a company that goes outside of the norm to take care of its customers," says professor David Soberman with U of T's Rotman School of Management.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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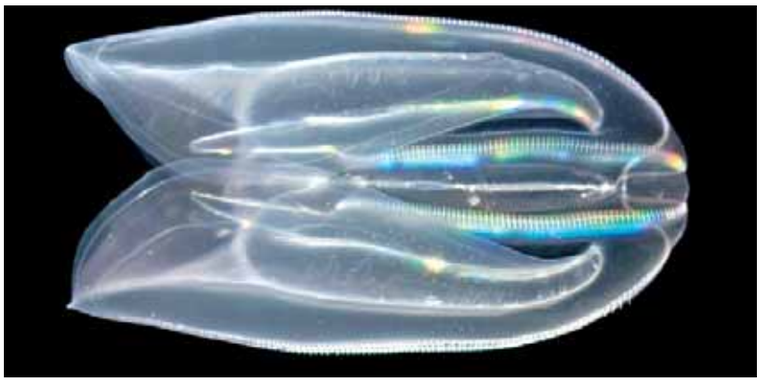

Sponges not the oldest – it's this guy: Study

Sponges are getting squeezed out of first place in evolution. This image provided by the University of Miami and the journal Science shows the Mnemiopsis leidyi, a species of comb jelly known as a sea walnut, a plankton-eating creature native to the western Atlantic. A study of DNA research published Thursday in Science says comb jellies represent the oldest branch of the animal family tree. UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain

Being an 'incorrigible rogue' no longer illegal

Repeat rascals in the U.K. can breathe a little easier tonight. Being an "incorrigible rogue" is no longer against the law.

Britain's Ministry of Justice said that the old-fashioned-sounding offence, created in the early 19th century, was one of more than 300 obsolete offences which had been scrapped over the past year.

The 1824 Vagrancy Act was aimed at the punishment of "idle and disorderly persons," "rogues," and "vagabonds." It defined an "incorrigible rogue" as a homeless person who violently resisted arrest.

Many such laws have been heavily amended since or slipped into obsolescence, replaced by newer legislation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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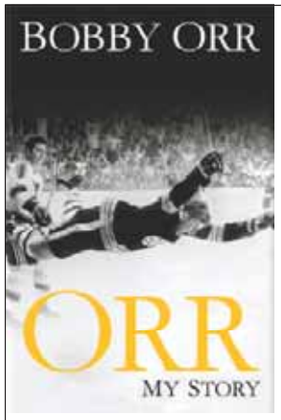

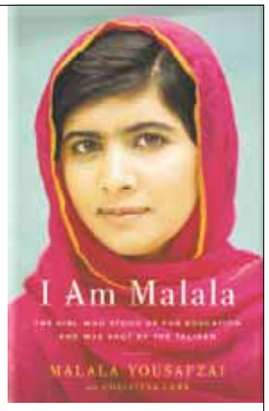

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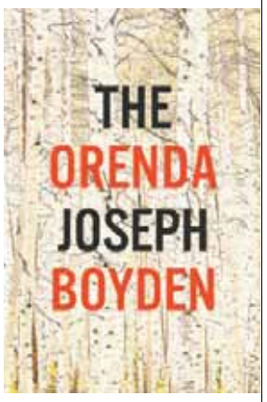

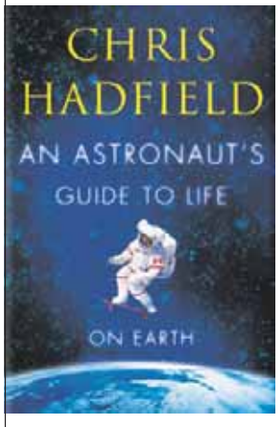

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Stan Goertzen, centre, stands with his brothers Lawrence, left, and Darrell in this family photo. The Saskatchewan siblings believe they are grandsons of former prime minister John Diefenbaker. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Childless' Diefenbaker sired 2 boys?

Brothers' quest to uncover their roots.
Labyrinthine tale of adoptions, broken and reconstituted families turned up 'Dief' as a common thread

Twice-married former Canadian prime minister John Diefenbaker — always believed to have been childless — may have fathered not one but two sons, leaving progeny scattered across the country, The Canadian Press has learned.

About 10 years ago, in Western Canada, three Goertzen siblings began searching for their biological father, Ed Thorne, who had split from their mom four decades earlier.

Stan Goertzen, 52, a retired member of the Saskatoon police service, found Thorne in Kamloops, B.C. He made a startling discovery — that Thorne, who died soon after, had been adopted and renamed Edward Thorne. His name at birth was John Eric LaMarche, and his mother was Diefenbaker's housekeeper Mary Rosa LaMarche.

Content with having found their dad, the Goertzens didn't give the apparent connection to Canada's 13th prime minister much further thought.

One question, however, nagged at the youngest Goertzen brother, Lawrence, who long had doubts about whether Thorne really was his biological father.

Enter George Dryden, 45, who grew up in a Toronto family of privilege only to discover a few years ago that the man who raised him — prominent federal Liberal Gordon Dryden — was not his father.

That revelation prompted Dryden to go on a well-publicized quest to confirm long-time family whispers: that he was the product of an affair between his mother, Mary Lou Dryden, and Diefenbaker, a known confidante.

Dryden, who bears a strong resemblance to the former Conservative prime minister, believes previous genetic matching with a known Diefenbaker relative proved the family connection to his satisfaction.

Lawrence Goertzen, 48, contacted George Dryden and they both sent body samples to a DNA lab, together with Stan Goertzen. The result this month stunned them.

"We're talking about 99.99 per cent probability that they are related," said Kyle Tsui at Toronto-based Accu-Metrics, which did the tests. "This is the expected result for an uncle-nephew relationship."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Diefenbabies

"I got a feeling there might be Diefenbabies running around all over the place."

George Dryden, who called DNA tests that showed a 99.99 per cent probability that he and the Goertzens are related "a very nice surprise, an early Christmas present."

Adopted son

Search for boy turns up another 'Dief' link

A locket belonging to Mary Rosa LaMarche shows a photograph of her baby Ed Thorne and herself. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ruthann Malmgren, now of Rockyford, Alta., had also been looking for Ed Thorne on behalf of her mother, Mary Rosa LaMarche, who years earlier had given him up for adoption.

LaMarche had been Diefenbaker's housekeeper in Prince Albert, Sask., in the late 1930s, Malmgren said.

At the time, Diefenbaker was having marital difficulties, according to a biography of his first wife. His eye apparently rested on his housekeeper.

In 1938, LaMarche fell pregnant and was promptly sent to Bethany Home in Saskatoon. Little John was born in February 1939. His birth certificate did not list a father.

Malmgren, 70, remembers her dad would say the baby was Diefenbaker's. He would be angry his wife wore a locket with photos of herself and the infant.

The baby, John Eric LaMarche, was adopted and renamed Edward Thorne.

Malmgren tracked Thorne down to Kamloops and, through him, connected with Stan Goertzen around 2003. She told him his biological father, Ed Thorne, was Diefenbaker's son. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A what's what of who's watching who

Everyday surveillance. Your email server, credit card company and others are looking at your info — but should you be worried?

BOB MACKIN
vancouver@metronews.ca

Snowden's NSA leak has been called the most significant in U.S. history. SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

Documents leaked by whistleblower Edward Snowden, one of 2013's biggest newsmakers, have revealed how the United States government is tracking mobile phone locations, monitoring email and even infiltrating video game networks.

The U.S. is not alone in spying on citizens. A multitude of governments and businesses in Canada keep track of human behaviour in a variety of ways that concern security experts and civil libertarians.

"We're able to see how many mundane and personal aspects of life are recorded and retained," said Adam Molnar, a partner in Block G Privacy and Security Consulting and a postdoctoral fellow in Queen's University's Surveillance Studies Centre.

Canadian laws protect citizens' privacy, but such rights are "limited and balanced against the needs of organizations and governments to collect, use and disclose information for reasonable purposes," according to the B.C. Civil Liberties Association. Technology is such that your daily "digital footprints" can be noticed and recorded. The danger is that such information could be unlawfully shared or leaked.

"People can begin to be aware of the amount of data that gets captured from them on a routine basis and really start to begin to demand the transparency from our governments that a healthy functioning democracy deserves," Molnar said.

Check your Google email and you might see advertising related to websites you frequent. Bell began a similar program in October. With BC Hydro smart meters came the MyHydro energy tracking program, which notices when you turn out the lights in the morning. On the way to a bus stop or parkade, your image may be caught by intersection surveillance cameras or ones in shop windows.

TransLink will know where Compass card users go on SkyTrain. Similarly, TReO knows when you've crossed the Port Mann or Golden Ears toll bridges. No loonies or toonies in your pocket to plug the parking meter? Pay by phone, but your parking spot and time are logged.

Buy a coffee with a credit card. That purchase is also logged. A security conscious credit card company might call to verify your purchases, if it thinks your buying volume, frequency or location are abnormal. Get discounts for using a loyalty card, but your purchases are logged by retailers and may be shared with their suppliers.

Access control cards are standard for many office workers and health club members. The new B.C. Services Card is a first-in-Canada drivers licence and medical services combo hyped as convenient by government. The B.C. Civil Liberties Association speculates it's the first step to a national identification card.

Jetting away on a trip outside Canada? Don't forget your passport. That information may already be in your airline's database for sharing with the government of your destination. If you have a Nexus card to bypass customs lineups, your information is already on file with the U.S. government. Customs officers needn't rely solely on passenger name records in their database. They could also Google you. "A very quick, open-source intelligence search," Molnar said.

Airports have multiple layers of security to track the movement of people and luggage. That could include cameras in corridors that not only capture biometric information, but "there might be microphones that allow security officials to listen in to conversations," Molnar said.

"You still need to go through security with (Canadian Air Transport Security Authority). You walk through a metal detector, a full body scanner that produces images of you without any clothes."

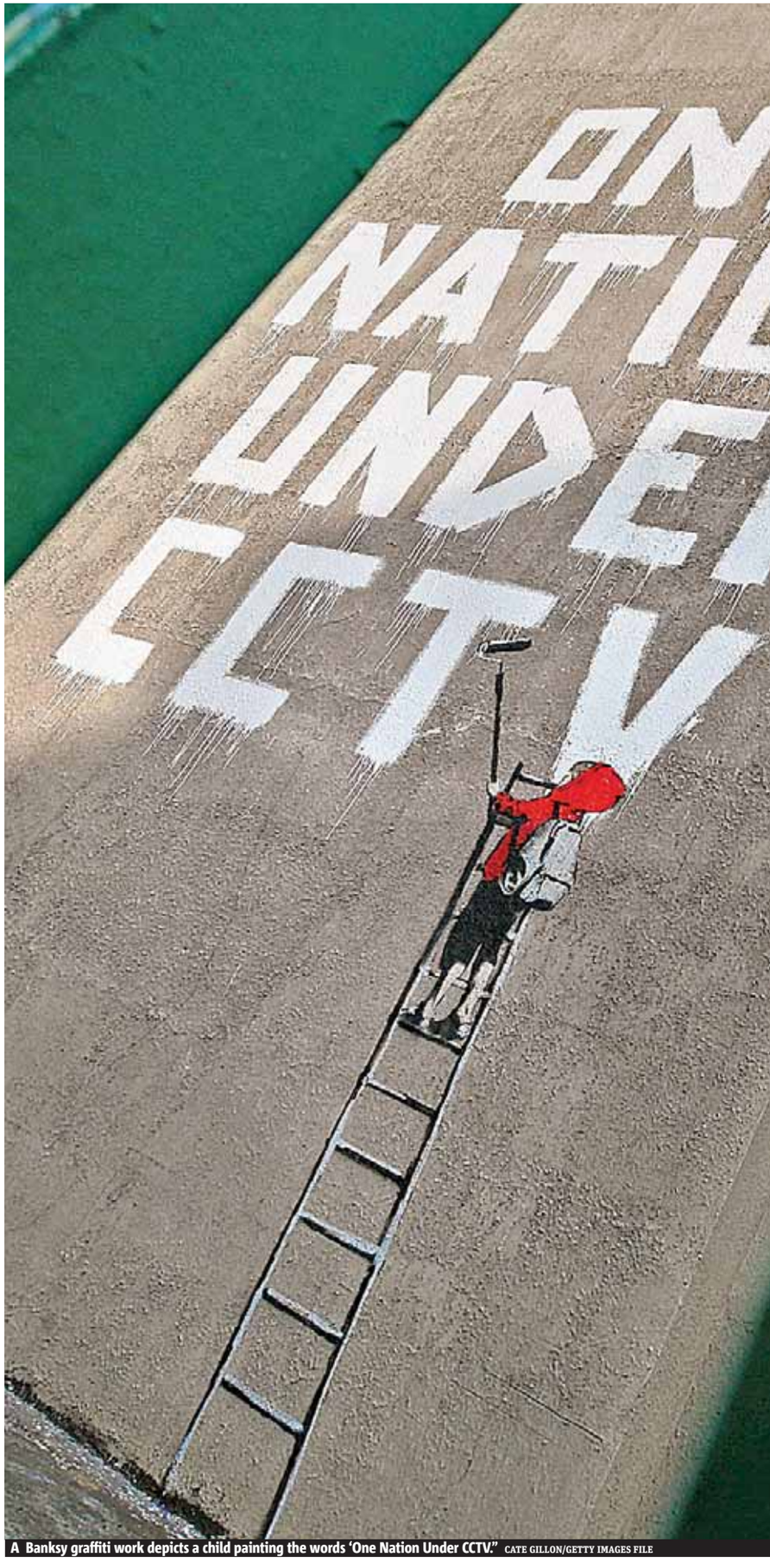
Fingerprints and mug shots are routinely collected by some foreign countries. Could governments someday ask for your unique genetic blueprint?

In Canada, DNA is only collected from convicts. The RCMP wants Ottawa to allow it to take swabs from anyone who is arrested.

"This may be time to have a public discussion to draw those boundaries between our Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the extent to which national security remains a priority," Molnar said.

Night of 2,000 eyes

- A few years ago, the Vancouver Public Space Network tallied more than 2,000 security cameras in the downtown core. There's even one embedded on the underside of the Olympic Cauldron. For more visit metronews.ca/vancouver.



A Banksy graffiti work depicts a child painting the words 'One Nation Under CCTV." CATE GILLON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

NSA leaks : A when's when

June 5-6

Glenn Greenwald stories in The Guardian reveal a secret court order enabling the U.S. National Security Agency to spy on Verizon calls and the NSA's PRISM program that monitored Apple, Facebook and Google user data.

June 9

Edward Snowden, an employee of U.S. defence contractor Booz Allen Hamilton, goes public as the source of the leaks: "I can't in good conscience allow the U.S. government to destroy privacy, Internet freedom and basic liberties for people around the world with this massive surveillance machine they're secretly building."

June 23

Snowden leaves Hong Kong for Moscow, lives in Shermetyevo Airport's international zone until the Russian government grants asylum on Aug. 1.

Aug. 29

Washington Post reveals 178-page, $52.6 billion fiscal 2013 "black budget" for the U.S. National Intelligence Program, which employs 107,035 people.

Oct. 6

Brazil's Globo TV reports NSA-ally Communications and Security Establishment Canada spied on Brazil's energy and mines department. CSEC, NSA and agencies in United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand comprise the "five eyes" spying alliance.

Nov. 27

CBC reveals NSA's temporary operation at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa during the G8 and G20 summits in 2010.

Dec. 4

Washington Post reports NSA is gathering 5 billion records daily about mobile phone locations around the world.

Know your rights

Who to contact if your privacy is breached:

- **Privacy Commissioner of Canada.** Interim Privacy Commissioner Chantal Bernier advocates for citizens' privacy rights and investigates complaints under Canada's Privacy Act (which covers federal ministries and agencies) and the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (the private sector privacy law). priv.gc.ca.
- **Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia.** Commissioner Elizabeth Denham has jurisdiction under B.C.'s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (which governs 2,900 ministries, municipalities, school boards, Crown corporations, health authorities and municipal police) and the Personal Information Protection Act (for 300,000 businesses, charities, associations, unions and trusts). oipc.bc.ca.

Citizens have the right under federal and provincial laws to access information collected about them and to ensure that it is correct.

- **B.C. Freedom of Information and Privacy Association.** Non-profit society that advocates for British Columbians' information access and privacy rights. fipa.bc.ca.

Four CCTV surveillance cameras covering a parking lot near the O2 Arena in London, England. OLI SCARFF/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Our products can be used for good or bad: Surveillance CEO

Alexander Fernandes had a dream in 2004 to build a better surveillance camera.

His B.C.-based Avigilon Corp. now sells high definition systems with up to 29 megapixel resolution and wants to dominate a global market forecast to be worth $30 billion by 2016.

"A camera by itself is just a paperweight in the context of security and surveillance," chairman and CEO Fernandes told Metro. "You need to be able to record all that video, search it, retransmit it over the Internet, in some cases view it remotely. We've created the world's first from-the-ground-up video surveillance system."

TSX-traded Avigilon is valued at nearly $1.27 billion. Revenue increased from $60 million to $100.3 million last year. Systems cost as little as $500, but the company boasts multimillion-dollar clients such as the Rogers Centre in Toronto, San Diego Metro Transit Authority and Saudi Arabia's King Abdulaziz Airport. City of Vancouver used Avigilon during the 2010 Winter Olympics for policing and traffic control.

Fernandes calls video surveillance a "platform for honest people and honest businesses to protect themselves from bad people doing bad things to good people."

"There's a balance between protecting people and property and not going too far and invading people's privacy," he said.

"I'm a private citizen as well so I don't necessarily want people looking in on my private space. At the same time I've got children and I want some sense of them being reasonably safe going about their day-to-day livelihood catching the bus and going to school."

Video surveillance is a tool, like a car or hammer, that can be used for good or bad, he said.

Closed-circuit TV footage helped identify 2011 Stanley Cup rioters and led to the arrest of a Surrey man police believe sexually assaulted a woman who mistook a black minivan for a taxi on Oct. 12 in Gastown.

Allan Bosomworth, co-owner of Railtown's now defunct Two Chefs and a Table, was accused in September of hiding a camera in the restaurant's bathroom to record below-the-waist images. His next court date is Dec. 11.

BOB MACKIN/FOR METRO

Competing interests

"There's a balance between protecting people and property and not going too far and invading people's privacy."

Alexander Fernandes, chairman and CEO of Avigilon Corp

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† No purchase necessary, one entry per person. Local Contests are open to legal residents of the province in which the Participating store is located. National contest is open to legal residents of Canada. Must be of the age of majority in your province of residence to enter. Contest ends on December 13, 2013 at 9pm in the province of Quebec and 11:59pm local time in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. There is a total of 6586 prizes available to be won with 922 prizes available to be won in Quebec; 3168 in Ontario; 1307 in Alberta; 1189 in Vancouver and 1 prize nationally. Participating Stores are in Toronto Bloor Street, Yorkdale, Sherway, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. The odds of winning depend on the number of candy canes handed out during the Contest Period. Mathematical skill testing question required. Full rules in store and on http://www.holtrenfrew.com/MagentaMadness.

Putin defends conservative values

State-of-the-nation address. Russian leader also warned those abroad seeking a military edge over the country

On Thursday, president Vladimir Putin cast Russia as a defender of conservative values against the "genderless and infertile" Western tolerance that he said equates good and evil.

Putin's state-of-the-nation address also contained a strong warning to those abroad who he claimed were seeking a military edge over Russia — a clear nod at the U.S. effort to develop long-range non-nuclear weapons that Russia sees as a threat to its nuclear deterrent.

The president also announced a sweeping crackdown on Russian offshore companies to bring billions of dollars home. Putin's 70-minute speech marked a determined effort to burnish Russia's image that has been dented by Western criticism of an anti-gay law which has stoked calls for a boycott of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Putin's pet project.

"Many countries today are reviewing moral norms and erasing national traditions and distinctions between nationalities and cultures," Putin said.

"The society is now required to demonstrate not only the sensible recognition of everyone's right to freedom of conscience, political outlook and private life, but also the mandatory recognition of the equivalence of good and evil, no matter how odd that may seem."

Russia has insisted that a law banning "propaganda of non-traditional relations" does not discriminate against gays, but gay-rights groups say it has given a green light to harassment and intimidation.

Without directly referring to the anti-gay law, Putin focused on upholding traditional family values, which he said were the foundation of Russia's greatness against "so-called tolerance — genderless and infertile." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vladimir Putin
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Figurines for change. Gay Russian dolls highlight homophobic laws

Lovingly hand-painted "matrioshka" dolls of five high-profile British gay men are the tools of a new campaign to highlight homophobic laws in Russia. Seven sets of models depicting British celebrities Elton John, Stephen Fry, George Michael, Graham Norton and Tom Daley will be auctioned off, with the proceeds going to LGBT charity The Kaleidoscope Trust, says Liam Fay-Fright of Mother London, the agency that designed them.

What sort of impact are you hoping for?
We want to raise at least $10,000 US for the Trust battling against homophobia. We have commissioned very talented artists so that people will want them as Christmas gifts and make a statement.

Was it difficult to choose what celebrities would become dolls?
Yes, there was a lot of competition.

Are you hoping to create a diplomatic incident?
I hope it causes a diplomatic discussion that raises awareness of the situation, leading to political pressure that encourages the government to reconsider their attitude.
METRO WORLD NEWS

The collection of British gay celebrity dolls. CONTRIBUTED

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Vote for Goodness

We've been searching for goodness. Here are 5 stories of genuinely good Canadians making a difference in their communities. Have a read. Then vote online for the story you'd like us to share in our next TV ad.

Ethan
St. Catharines, ON

Sometimes, good things come in small packages. Ethan, a Pee-Wee hockey player from St. Catharines, ON, has been collecting used hockey equipment since 2009 and distributing it to underprivileged hockey players throughout Ontario and around the world.

George
Oliver, BC

Wherever help is needed in Oliver, BC, you'll find George. He spends his life spreading goodness in so many ways, but what's really special is the time and effort he devotes to growing fresh vegetables for others. Last year, he donated 1800lbs of veggies to the food bank.

Sharon
Brandon, MB

One person can fill an entire community with goodness. Sharon, from Brandon, MB, is in her retirement years, but she still works 5 days a week at her local soup kitchen. There by 6 a.m. every morning, she tirelessly cooks hot meals for 125-150 people from all walks of life.

Julia and Emma
Oakville, ON

Goodness runs in their family. Teen sisters Julia and Emma from Oakville, ON made it their mission to collect books for remote "fly-in" communities in Northern Ontario. Their charity Books With No Bounds has collected and distributed over 27,000 books.

Coby
North York, ON

This story proves that you can always make time to spread goodness. Coby leads a busy life in North York, ON, but he regularly visits a long-term home for the elderly. Through the joy of music and song, he, and a group of volunteers from The House, bring smiles and a little human tenderness to the aged.

Vote at searchforgoodness.ca

Voting period ends on January 03, 2014 at 11:59 AM ET. Limit of one vote per person per day. See www.facebook.com/shreddies for details.

Doritos dusts off, dreams up more wacky eats

Next from the PepsiCo food innovation lab...
On the heels of Doritos Locos Tacos, prepare for chip-topped wings and Mountain Dew sauces

Dorito dust may be the new salt for more restaurant chains.

PepsiCo Inc., which owns Cheetos, Fritos, Tostitos and other snacks, found success last year after teaming up with Taco Bell to create Dorito-flavoured taco shells. And it has since been dreaming up other restaurant dishes featuring its popular snacks.

The company announced Thursday that it struck a deal to serve its drinks at Buffalo Wild Wings. PepsiCo also said it would work with the sports-centric chain to create "unique menu offerings."

Buffalo Wild Wings CEO Sally Smith said that she visited PepsiCo's food innovation lab in New York and was shown several dishes the chain might put on its menu. Ideas included Doritos as a crunchy topping for wings or tenders, or even just offering potato chips as a side dish. Smith said she was shown salad dressings and sandwich and chicken wing sauces that incorporate PepsiCo's sodas, including Mountain Dew.

Over at Taco Bell, Doritos Locos Tacos continue to be a considerable sales driver. Taco Bell CEO Greg Creed has noted that a major advantage of the tacos is that competitors can't replicate them — their success is largely tied to the popularity of the Doritos brand.

PepsiCo clearly sees the idea of incorporating its snacks into menus as a major opportunity. At an analyst conference in Boca Raton, Fla., earlier this year, for example, the company sponsored a lunch featuring recipes using its Naked Juices, Frito chips and other products. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TimmyMe app

Two years after Starbucks, Tim's tries tap-and-pay

A limited number of Tim Hortons stores are now letting you pay for a double-double with your smartphone.

Participating outlets in Canada and the U.S. will allow users with some BlackBerry 10 devices, iPhones and Google Android smartphones to pay with a TimmyMe app. The BlackBerry app uses near field communication technology and works similarly to the tap-to-pay method used with some debit and credit cards. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Share with up to 15 peeps

Filter who gets that latest selfie on Instagram Direct

Instagram has added a new feature dubbed Instagram Direct that lets users share photos and videos with up to 15 people rather than everyone who follows them on the popular Facebook-owned photo-sharing app.

Called Instagram Direct, the feature was to be available Thursday for Apple and Android phones, CEO Kevin Systrom said at a press event. Users can choose up to 15 of the people who follow them on Instagram to share photos or videos with. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
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(-0.42¢)

TSX
13,114.39 (-19.03)

OIL
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GOLD
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Natural gas: $4.37 US (+$0.03)
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THE GOOD PEOPLE WANT GANJA

THE METRO LIST

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 **Asian cockroaches.** A new species has been discovered in the Big Apple. Recently identified by scientists as Periplaneta japonica, a genus native to Japan, the insect is known in China and Korea for its ability to survive in cold climates. New Yorkers remain unfazed by news of another living creature trying to survive and breed in their city.

2 **Grounded.** Last Friday, Tom Wagner fell asleep on a flight to Houston. He was overlooked by staff and awoke to find himself trapped in the dark aircraft. He called his girlfriend and she notified the airline, who eventually rescued him. Counter-terrorism agencies expressed concern over the news but airport security assured them that Wagner had nothing in his shoes and did not have a bottle of water.

3 **Mama knows.** Mothers' favourite gift this year is the FiLIP smartwatch. A colourful wristwatch doubling as a phone with voice and GPS so parents can keep track of their kids at all times. American women are currently lobbying for this same technology to be used in wedding rings.

4 **Everything I (Think I) Am.** Kanye West is the world's greatest artist. Just ask him. He appeared at his Texas concert wearing a mask and someone shouted, "Take it off." After having security eject the paid-ticket holder, Kanye cleared up any possibility of mistaken identity by declaring his full name. "I'm Kanye-motha-f–in-West!" he said. And no one's arguing that.

5 **Grass is greener.** Hashtag "cannabis" has been trending on Twitter, and not just because weed-smokers repeatedly tweeted while forgetting they had. Ganja is making news because public appeal for legalization is growing, while staunch opposers recycle archaic myths of reefer madness as they guzzle their spirit of choice. "It's a gateway drug," they say. Yes, the gateway to procrastination and poor gastronomical decisions. And last I checked, neither one of those is criminal.

6 **Heading south.** U.S. private equity firm Bain Capital has managed to overtake one of our country's great national treasures: Canada Goose. Current president Dani Reiss says that the corporation intends to maintain the high standards for outerwear that his family worked hard to create, and that they will continue to be made in Canada. Oh good, so we still won't be able to afford them.

7 **Hallelujah.** Time magazine's Person of the Year goes to Pope Francis! The people's pontiff was chosen for refocusing the church away from condemnation and back to basics like mercy, compassion and maybe even smoking weed.

8 **This week in music.** On Dec. 12, 1957, rock 'n' roll icon Jerry Lee Lewis, who was still married to his first wife, secretly wed his 13-year-old second cousin Myra Gale Brown. This "degenerate trifecta" raised interesting public debate about which was more disturbing: the bigamy, the incest, or the statutory rape. Now, that's what I call some Great Balls of Fire.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

Burglary — it's monkey business

CYRIL RUOSO/MINDEN PICTURES/SOLENT NEWS

Baboons raid apartment for food

These baboons show they really are cheeky monkeys by breaking into an apartment, stealing food and parading their loot, including a giant teddy bear. Around 10 chacma baboons clambered into the third-floor flat in Cape Town, South Africa, and wreaked havoc, after one of their accomplices managed to get the window open. METRO

Photog says

"I am quite used to working with monkeys but I was amazed. When they came out with a giant teddy bear, I was even more astonished."

Cyril Ruoso, wildlife photographer, 43, from France

Loss of habitat leads to urban raid

Due to loss of natural habitat, baboons on the Cape Peninsula are adapting to human environment, entering urban areas in search of food.

"The intimidation that the big males employ has become physical and my young son no longer feels safe in the house," says Pierrer de Villiers, who lives in the town of Scarborough on the peninsula. METRO

A baboon escapes with a teddy bear. SOLENT NEWS

Clickbait

IRENE KUAN
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CONTRIBUTED

The festive season is in full swing, which means there is an overwhelming amount of holiday indulgence and selfie-snapping. Here are some apps that can help you look flawless, albeit not so natural, in photos.

Facetune:

For $2.99, this photo-editing app for iPhone and iPad is the perfect tool to help you achieve a professional-looking, polished photo. Options include a function to smooth the appearance of wrinkles. Smooth not enough? There's a "smoother" option, too.

Pixtr:

Use this free app to instantly perfect your photos. Pixtr can automatically correct face symmetry and remove blemishes and wrinkles. It can work with solo images, as well as group shots, personalizing results for each subject.

Beauty Camera:

This free photo-editing app for Android is designed to make you look beautiful. Say there's no good light in the room for a photo — no worries! Beauty Camera can instantly change the lighting and tonal details in the photo. You can also compare the effects with the original photo.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A Vancouver bus driver isn't allowed to wear a Santa suit because it's against uniform policy. Should he be allowed?

@TrentRedekop: will it help him pick us up on time?

@EthanDR: "He might not be identifiable as the transit operator" ... umm he's the one driving the bus #IDENTIFIED!

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Synopsis

Picking up where An Unexpected Journey left off, Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) and Gandalf (Ian McKellen) join with Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) and his army of 12 dwarves. Their goal is to traverse Mirkwood, Esgaroth and Dale to locate the fire-breathing dragon Smaug who hoards the wealth of the Lonely Mountain. On the way they battle giant spiders, make a deal with Bard the bowman (Luke Evans), the descendant of the original Lord of Dale, and some helpful and not-so-helpful elves (including a good lookin' and deadly She-Elf played by Evangeline Lilly).

- Richard: ●●●●○
- Mark: ●●○○○

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug is more of an Unexpected Journey — only one that doesn't really go anywhere. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

This Hobbit is hobbling

The Desolation of Smaug. J.R.R. Tolkien fans will surely geek out on the latest installment but one of the Reel Guys couldn't care less about the film

Richard: Mark, despite the sense of mild confusion I felt as I tried to piece the story together, I really enjoyed The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. It took a lot of back-story to get to the fifth film based on Middle-earth and its inhabitants and it will help if you know your Shire from your Sauron or your Skin Changers.

But having said that, Peter Jackson has crafted a great action adventure with the same consistency of tone, style and spirit that runs through the LOTR and Hobbit movies. They feel like story shards chipped off the same block.

Mark: Richard, there are two kinds of people in this world — those who admire and enjoy the work of J.R.R. Tolkien, and those who are repelled by his neo-medieval, Druidic nonsense.

You can guess which camp I fall into. I sat through the Rings trilogy under great duress, and skipped the first Hobbit entirely. So the only question was how much I would loathe this picture. The good news is: not that much. True, the entire movie and everyone in it needs a haircut, but the set pieces worked, especially the barrel escape down the river and the entire dragon sequence. But the movie felt so long I could have flown to Tokyo for dinner and gotten back in time for the end credits.

RC: I think fans will find the length just about right… non-fans, maybe not so much. This one worked for me. There's a Richard Attenborough old school epicness about it. It is about good and evil without troubling nuance or anti-heroes.

Perhaps because Englishman Tolkien penned these action adventure stories during the Second World War when evil was clear-cut, his books are ripe with allegory but straightforward in their approach to morality and good vs. evil.

MB: A good point, but maybe it's precisely that serious, hectoring tone that always turned me off. Evangeline Lilly, on the other hand, did not turn me off — quite the opposite.

She really holds the screen even if her ears need cosmetic surgery. But the ending — a cliffhanging cheat, if you ask me — elicited a collective groan from the audience and made the experience feel incomplete. Did you like the dark look of the picture?

RC: I did like the look. It's darker in tone than the Hobbit books for sure, but I thought it suited Peter Jackson's take on the story. I also liked the Walking Dead style battle scenes — lots of arrows in heads.

MB: I kept hoping for someone to show up with a gun and put them all out of my misery.

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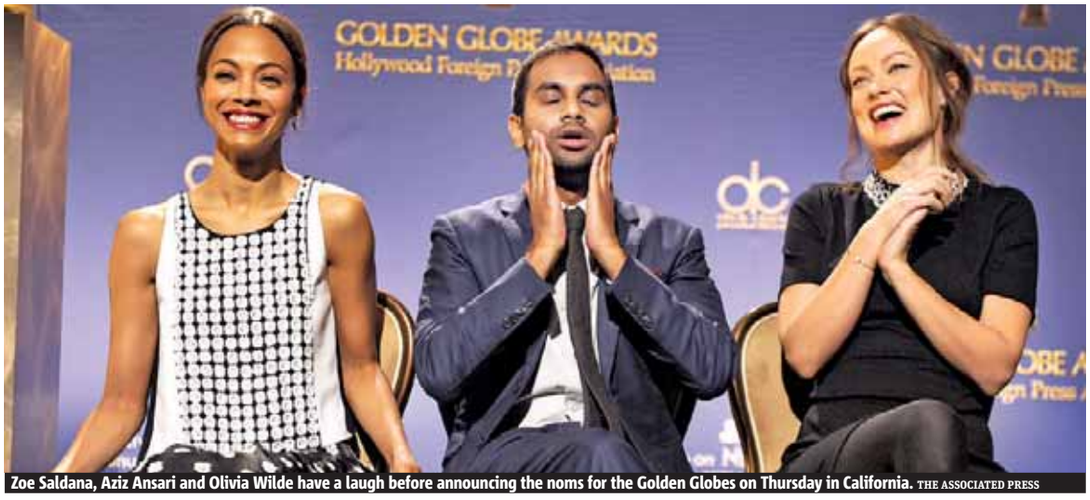
Lots of talent, but little gold to go around

Golden Globes noms. It's a crowded field and the Hollywood Foreign Press doesn't seem to know what funny is

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood



Zoe Saldana, Aziz Ansari and Olivia Wilde have a laugh before announcing the noms for the Golden Globes on Thursday in California. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Awards season is officially here, thanks to the announcements of the Golden Globe nominations, and the best word to describe this year's crop is crowded. So crowded, in fact, that some heavy hitters have been almost left out.

Steve McQueen's 12 Years a Slave is still considered the lead favourite, with nominations for the film itself, director McQueen, stars Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender and Lupita Nyong'o, screenwriter John Ridley and composer Hans Zimmer.

But with such a crowded year it's easy for votes to get split. At least McQueen doesn't have to worry about David O. Russell's nomination-heavy American Hustle until the Oscars, as the Hollywood Foreign Press (HFPA) have placed it in the musical or comedy category (see sidebar).

Though it earned several nominations earlier in the week from the Screen Actors Guild, Lee Daniels' the Butler didn't garner a mention — not even for Oprah Winfrey, despite the HFPA's starstruck reputation. And while Martin Scorsese's Wolf of Wall Street nabbed nominations for the film and star Leonardo DiCaprio, it didn't make the cut in any other major category. Sorry, Scorsese.

Ejiofor, Idris Elba and Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be pulling double duty come the night of the awards, with nominations in both the film and television categories. And ceremony co-host Amy Poehler might have to take a break to make an acceptance speech, as she's up for her work on Parks and Recreation.

But what's most noteworthy about the television nominations is what and who didn't get nominated. The HFPA obviously didn't respond to the most recent season of Mad Men, as the series didn't score a single nod. Neither did HBO's Game of Thrones or Showtime's Homeland. And while Downton Abbey earned a nomination for the series itself, none of the cast — not even Maggie Smith — warranted a mention.

The Golden Globes will be awarded during a televised ceremony Jan. 12, four days before the Academy Awards nominations are announced.

That's not funny!

The HFPA is earning more than the usual amount of criticism this year for its musical or comedy film categories not really honouring musicals or comedy. Some of the films filling the top category — best picture musical or comedy (American Hustle, Her, Inside Llewyn Davis, Nebraska and The Wolf of Wall Street) shouldn't really be considered comedies, critics are arguing. Producers have been criticized in the past for positioning serious fare in the comedy category to increase a film's chances.

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Nominations

- **Best Motion Picture Drama.** 12 Years a Slave; Captain Phillips; Gravity; Philomena; Rush
- **Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** American Hustle; Her; Inside Llewyn Davis; Nebraska; The Wolf of Wall Street
- **Best Director.** Alfonso Cuaron - Gravity; Paul Greengrass - Captain Phillips; Steve McQueen - 12 Years a Slave; Alexander Payne - Nebraska; David O. Russell - American Hustle
- **Best Actor Motion Picture Drama.** Chiwetel Ejiofor - 12 Years a Slave; Idris Elba - Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom; Tom Hanks - Captain Phillips; Matthew McConaughey - Dallas Buyers Club; Robert Redford - All is Lost
- **Best Actor Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** Christian Bale - American Hustle; Bruce Dern - Nebraska; Leonardo DiCaprio, - the Wolf of Wall Street; Oscar Isaac - Inside Llewyn Davis; Joaquin Phoenix - Her

Taylor Schilling received a nom for her role in Orange is the New Black. CONTRIBUTED

- **Best Actress Motion Picture Drama.** Cate Blanchett - Blue Jasmine; Sandra Bullock - Gravity; Judi Dench - Philomena; Emma Thompson - Saving Mr. Banks; Kate Winslet - Labor Day
- **Best Actress Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** Amy Adams - American Hustle; Julie Delpy - Before Midnight; Greta Gerwig - Frances Ha; Julia Louis-Dreyfus - Enough Said; Meryl Streep - August: Osage County
- **Best Drama Series.** Breaking Bad; Downtown Abbey; the Good Wife; House of Cards; Masters of Sex
- **Best Comedy Series.** The Big Bang Theory; Brooklyn Nine-Nine; Girls; Modern Family; Parks and Recreation
- **Best Actor in a TV Drama Series.** Bryan Cranston - Breaking Bad; Lieve Schreiber - Ray Donovan; Michael Sheen - Masters of Sex; Kevin Spacey - House of Cards; James Spader - The Blacklist
- **Best Actress in a TV Drama Series.** Julianna Margulies - the Good Wife; Tatiana Maslany - Orphan Black; Taylor Schilling - Orange is the New Black; Kerry Washington - Scandal; Robin Wright - House of Cards
- **Best Actress in a TV Comedy Series.** Zooey Deschanel - New Girl; Lena Dunham - Girls; Edie Falco - Nurse Jackie; Julia Louis-Dreyfus - Veep; Amy Poehler - Parks and Recreation
- **Best Actor in a TV Comedy Series.** Jason Bateman - Arrested Development; Don Cheadle - House of Lies; Michael J. Fox - The Michael J. Fox Show; Jim Parsons - The Big Bang Theory

Drama

Empire of Dirt

Director. Peter Stebbings

Stars. Cara Gee, Shay Eyre

Cash strapped and dealing with Peeka, an obstinate 13-year-old who's overdosed on paint fumes, single mother Lena returns to the home she was kicked out of as a teenager. The trip sends both mother and daughter reeling as Lena confronts her past while Peeka is introduced to the family she never knew she had. Hamstrung by a script rife with stilted dialogue and clichés, lead actresses Cara Gee and Shay Eyre do their best. But the film's heart, the troubled relationships between Peeka, Lena and her mother, shine through as each one falls only to be picked up by the other two.

IAN GORMELY

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Great Odin's Raven! Burgundy is back

Anchorman 2.
Will Ferrell swore he'd never make a sequel ... OK maybe just one

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca

Anchorman 2 brings its style, class and fine taste in scotch to theatres next Wednesday. CONTRIBUTED

There's a stack of magazines sitting on the coffee table of Will Ferrell's suite at Toronto's Carlton-Ritz and as we settle down to chat in the plush chairs, the glossy one on top grabs his attention. He picks it up and flourishes his hand across its cover — a picture of a panda munching on a bamboo shoot.

"How apropos that there's a panda on the cover of this magazine, which was the big story in the first Anchorman. The panda story," he reminisces. "It's too bad they're almost extinct now. But let's not talk about that."

Indeed. Time is of the essence and Ferrell's got a few more upbeat things to wax about — like Anchorman 2 and his whirlwind promotion tour. Prior to touching down in Toronto earlier this month, he'd pulled a few Ron Burgundy stunts — co-anchoring a local newscast in Bismarck, N.D., and co-hosting the Roar of the Rings curling tournament in Winnipeg. But it's all a labour of love for Ferrell, who together with his co-writer Adam McKay, once swore they'd never do sequels — a claim with an asterisk for one special movie. "We would always have this sidebar conversation where it was 'well, if we ever were to do a sequel one day, it would probably be Anchorman,'" he says.

The original Anchorman reached almost cult-like status when it came out on DVD nearly 10 years ago. For a time, its jokes were fodder for every armchair comic. "People just started falling in love with this movie on a different level after repeat viewings," says Ferrell.

In Anchorman 2, Ron Burgundy and his reunited crew (Paul Rudd, Steve Carell, David Koechner) face a new decade – the '80s – with new challenges: a 24-hour cable news channel and – gasp — a female African American boss. In terms of joke density, Anchorman 2 packs in as many as the first and even more cameos. Kanye West, Will Smith, Amy Poehler, Tina Fey, Liam Neeson and Harrison Ford are just a fraction of the big names in the film.

"That's the love people have for Anchorman. We kept hearing from people and had them reaching out to us."

Ferrell says they even set their sights on Brad Pitt, who he wanted to play Ron Burgundy's pretty boy nemesis — anchor Jack Lime — but when Pitt declined, Ferrell and McKay brought in James Marsden. "We just did an informal read-through of the script to see how jokes were playing and Marsden read that part and we were like 'he's the guy,'" he says.

Ferrell adds the filmmaking felt more like a reunion party. "Just being back in our outfits, everyone felt really sentimental and it was like, 'wow, we're actually going to do this again.'"

"It's cliché sounding but I don't know if I've worked more closely with any cast, the way we get along and how we have this shared sense of letting each other be funny all at the same time and there's no real competition. That's rare."

Quoted

"Just being back in our outfits, everyone felt really sentimental."

Will Ferrell on the crew reprising their newscasting roles in Anchorman 2

Anchorman app

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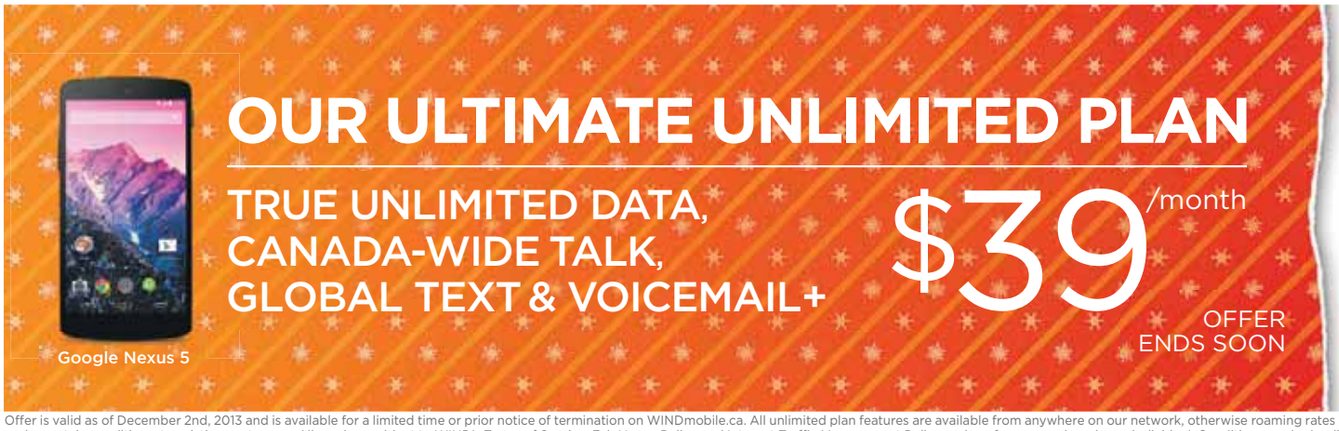

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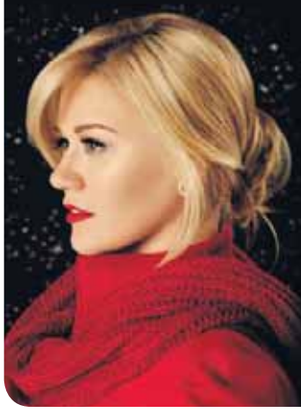

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The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:30-6:55-10:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-3:40-6:45-9:55 Wed-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:55
Nebraska (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4-7:10-9:45 Mon 12:50-3:50-9:45 Tue-Thu 12:50-4-7:10-9:45
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-7-9:40

Pacific Cinémathèque 1131 Howe Street

Early Summer (STC) Sat 8:35 Sun 6:30 Thu 6:30
Flavor of Green Tea Over Rice (STC) Fri 6:30 Sun 4
Gremlins (PG) Sun 1
Here One Day (STC) Wed 7:30
Late Spring (STC) Fri 8:45 Sat 6:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
The Only Son (STC) Sun 9 Mon 8
Record of a Tenement Gentleman (STC) Mon 6:30 Thu 9

Park Theatre 3440 Cambie Street

The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 9:55
Philomena (PG) Fri 4:20-6:50-9:10 Sat 1:50-4:20-6:50-9:10 Sun 1:50-4:20-6:50-9 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:50-9

Rio on Broadway 1660 E. Broadway

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) Wed 1:30-4-11 Thu 1:30-11
Heavy Hitting Horrorfest: Nightmare Before Christmas Short Film Festival (STC) Fri 7:30
Hook (STC) Fri 11:30
Jingle Bell Rocks (STC) Tue 9:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sat-Mon
The Punk Singer (STC) Tue 7

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver 900 Burrard St.

American Hustle (14A) Thu 7-10:10
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) No Passes Wed 12:50-3:50-7-10 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:30-7-7:35-10 No Passes Wed 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:30 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:50-10:30
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 12:20-2:35-4:55-7:20-9:45 Sat 3:35-5-7:20-9:45 Sun 12:20-2:35-4:55-7:20-9:45 Mon 1:10-10:35 Tue 12:20-2:35-4:55-7:20-9:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri 1-1:30-4:35-5:05-8:15-8:45 No Passes Sat 10:15-12:30-1-4:35-5:05-8:15-8:45 No Passes Sun-Tue 1-1:30-4:35-5:05-8:15-8:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 1-1:45-4:35-5:20-8:15-9
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Sat 3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Mon 12-10:45 No Passes Tue 12-3:30-7-10:40 No Passes Wed-Thu 2:50-6:30-10:15 No Passes Fri 2:15-5:50-9:30 No Passes Sat 5:50-9:30 No Passes Sun-Tue 2:15-5:50-9:30 No Passes Wed 12-3:30-7:05-10:40 No Passes Thu 12-3:30-7:10-10:40 No Passes Fri-Sun 11:25-2:50-6:30-10:10 No Passes Mon 3:30-7 No Passes Tue 11:25-2:50-6:25-10 No Passes Sat 12-1:25 No Passes Mon 2:50-6:25-10
Holiday Inn (STC) Wed 7
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12:15-12:50-3:35-4:10-7-7:30-10:20-10:45 Sat 10:15-12:50-3:25-4:10-7-7:30-10:20-10:45 Sun 12:15-12:50-3:35-4:10-7-7:30-10:20-10:45 Mon-Tue 12:10-12:50-3:25-4:10-6:50-7:30-10:10-10:45 Wed 12:10-12:40-3:25-3:55-6:50-7:15-10:10-10:35 Thu 12:10-12:40-3:25-3:55-7:15-10:35
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 9:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Tue 1:40 Wed-Thu 1:10
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4:40-7:40-10:30 Mon 4:30-7:35-10:30 Tue 4:40-7:40-10:30 Wed-Thu 4-10:20

Vancity Theatre Vancouver International Film Centre 1181 Seymour Street

Before Midnight (14A) Sun 1:15
The Crash Reel (PG) Fri-Sun 8:50 Mon-Wed 6:30 Thu 8:20
Frances Ha (14A) Sun 3:15
Jingle Bell Rocks (STC) Mon 8:45
The Summit (STC) Sat-Sun 5
The Trials of Muhammad Ali (STC) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 7 Tue-Wed 8:30 Thu 6:30

Vancouver Aquarium 4D Experience Theatre 845 Avison Way

Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas 4D (STC) Fri-Thu 11:15-12:15-1:15-2:15-3:15-4:15

Esplanade 6 200 West Esplanade

American Hustle (14A) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Thu 7-9:45
The Book Thief (PG) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:35-9:30 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:35-3:30-6:35-9:30 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Wed 6:35-9:30
Frozen (G) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 7 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 7
Frozen 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 6:45-9:20 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:20 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45-9:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 8:30 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-4-7:30 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 8:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 6:30-7:30 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 1-3-4:30-6:30-8:30 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-7:30
Homefront (14A) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 9:40

Park & Tilford 333 Brooksbank Ave.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:45-9:55 Mon-Tue 7:10-10:10
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 7:30-10:25
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 7:20-9:45 Sat 11:40-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 Sun 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 6:15-9:30 Sat 11:30-2:45-6:15-9:30 Sun 2:45-6:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:15-9:30 Fri 6:45-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Mon-Thu 6:45-10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 9:55
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:20-7:15-10:10 Mon-Thu 7-9:50
Philomena (PG) Fri 7:15-9:40 Sat 11:35-2-4:30-7:10-9:40 Sun 2-4:30-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

SilverCity Riverport 14211 Entertainment Way

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:55-7:05-10:15 Sun 12:40-10:15 Mon-Tue 12:40-3:55-7:05-10:15
American Hustle (14A) Thu 7-10:15
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:25-2:10-4:20-5:05-7:15-8-10:10-10:55
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:45-7-10:05
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Tue 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Wed 12:45-4-10:30 Thu 12:45-4
Dallas Buyers Club (14A) Fri-Sat 1:25-4:25-7:15-10:10 Sun 4:25-7:15-10:10 Mon-Tue 1:25-4:25-7:15-10:10
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Tue 11:55-2:35-5:20-8:05-10:45 Wed-Thu 12-2:35-5:20-8:05-10:45
Frozen (G) Fri 1:25-4:15-6:50-9:25 Sat 10:45-1:25-4:15-6:50-9:25 Sun-Wed 1:25-4:15-6:50-9:25 Thu 4:15-6:50-9:25
Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 11:50-2:30-5:15-7:50-10:25 Sat 10-11:50-2:30-5:15-7:50-10:25 Sun 11:30-2:10-4:25-7-9 Mon-Tue 11:50-2:30-5:15-7:50-10:25 Wed-Thu 12-2:40-5:25-8-10:35 Sat 10:15
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:35-5:55-8:15-10:35
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-5:10-8:45 No Passes Sat 9:55
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 2:50-12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Mon-Tue 12-3:30-7-10:40 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-4-7:25-10:55 No Passes Fri 1-2:15-4:30-5:50-8:15-9:30 No Passes Sat 10:30-1-2:15-4:30-5:50-8:15-9:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 1-2:15-4:30-5:50-8:15-9:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Mon-Tue 11:30-3-6:30-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30
Holiday Inn (STC) Wed 7
Homefront (14A) Fri 12:30-3:05-5:45-8:20-10:50 Sat 3:05-5:45-8:20-10:50 Sun-Wed 12:30-3:05-5:45-8:20-10:50 Thu 12:30-3:05
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12:05-12:50-3:25-4:10-6:45-7:30-10-10:45 Sat 11:40-12:05-3:25-4:10-6:45-7:30-10-10:45 Sun-Wed 12:05-12:50-3:25-4:10-6:45-7:30-10-10:45 Thu 12:05-3:25-4:10-6:45-7:30-10-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 9:55
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:45-7:40-10:40
Philomena (PG) Fri-Tue 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 Wed-Thu 12-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 Sat 10:30
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (STC) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (G) No Passes Thu 7-10
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 1:20 Sat 10:15-1:20 Sun-Thu 1:20
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:20-7:25-10:30
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 5

Dolphin Cinemas 4555 E. Hastings St.

Frozen (G) Fri 5-7:10-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45-5-7:10-9:25 Mon-Thu 5-7:10-9:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri 3:30-6:35-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:35-9:40

SilverCity Metropolis 4700 Kingsway Ave.

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:35-10:30
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Fri 11:35-2:05-4:45-7:20 Sat 12:15 Sun 5:30 Mon-Tue 11:55-2:25-5:05-7:40 Wed 1:35-4:10 Thu 1:35-4:10-6:45 Sat 2:05-4:45-7:20 Sun 11:35-2:05
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Sat 12:30-3:5:30-8-10:30 Sun 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Tue 12:05-2:45-5:25-8-10:30 Wed-Thu 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4:40-8:20 No Passes Mon 1-8:20 No Passes Tue 1-4:40-8:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:50-4:30-8:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Mon-Tue 12-3:30-7-10:40 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:25 No Passes Fri-Tue 1:45-5:20-9 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:40-5:20-9 No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Mon-Tue 11:45-3:15-6:40-10:20
Holiday Inn (STC) Wed 7
Homefront (14A) Fri-Thu 10:05
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12:20-12:50-3:40-4:10-7-7:30-10:15-10:45 Sat 1:05-3:10-4:20-6:30-7:30-9:45-10:45 Sun 12:20-12:50-3:40-4:10-7-7:30-10:15-10:45 Mon 12:15-12:50-3:25-4:10-4:40-7:30-10:15-10:45 Tue 12:20-12:50-3:40-4:10-6:55-7:30-10:15-10:45 Wed-Thu 12:10-12:30-3:25-3:45-6:40-7:05-10-10:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 9:55
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Sat 1:55-4:50-7:40-10:35 Sun 4:50-7:40-10:35 Mon-Tue 1:55-4:50-7:35-10:25 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:20-10:10
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (STC) Sun 12:55
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 11:40 Sat 2:45 Sun 11:40 Mon-Tue 11:50 Wed-Thu 1:20
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 2:25-5:10-8-10:40 Sat 5:25-8:05-10:40 Sun 2:25-8-10:40 Mon-Tue 2:30-5:10-7:55-10:35 Wed-Thu 4:20-7:10-9:55
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 5

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12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:50-10:10 Mon 5:45-9 Tue 12:20-3:20-6:50-10:10 Wed-Thu 5:45-9
American Hustle (14A) Thu 7:15-10:25
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 2-4:55-7:50-10:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 4:25-7:25-10:25
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:50-6:55-10 Sun 2-9 Mon-Thu 12:45-3:50-6:55-10 Fri-Sun 1-4:15-7:45-10:40 Mon 4:15-7:30-10:25 Tue 1-4:15-7:45-10:40
Commitment (STC) Fri 11:55-2:40-5:25-8:10-10:55 Sat 2:40-5:25-8:10-10:55 Sun 11:55-2:40-5:25-8:10-10:55 Mon 1:15-4:20-7:10-9:55 Tue 11:55-2:40-5:25-8:10-10:55
Dallas Buyers Club (14A) Fri-Tue 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:05 Wed 1:10-4-9:30 Thu 1:35-4:25
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Thu 9:45
Friend 2: The Legacy (STC) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:35
Frozen (G) Fri 1:20-4:10-7 Sat 11:10-1:20-4:10-7 Sun-Tue 1:20-4:10-7 Wed 4:10-7 Thu 1:20-4:10-7 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:15-4:55-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:15-4:55-7:35-10:15
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:55-10:25 Sun 5:10-7:55-10:25 Mon-Wed 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:55-10:25 Thu 1:50-4:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Mon 2:50-6:30-10:10 No Passes Tue 3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 2:50-6:30-10:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Mon 12-3:30-7-10:40 No Passes Tue 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:40 No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4:40-8:20 No Passes Fri-Sun 12-1:30-3:40-5:15-7:20-9-11 No Passes Mon 3:30-4:45-7:05-8:30-10:45 No Passes Tue 12-1:30-3:40-5:15-7:20-9-11 No Passes Wed-Thu 3:30-4:45-7:05-8:30-10:45
Holiday Inn (STC) Wed 7
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 11:50-12:40-3:20-4-6:50-7:25-10:10-10:45 Mon-Tue 12:05-12:40-3:20-4-6:50-7:25-10:10-10:45 Wed 12:05-3:20-4:10-6:50-7:25-10:10-10:45 Thu 12:05-12:40-3:20-4-6:50-7:25-10:10-10:45 Fri-Sun 2:45-6:20-9:45 Mon 3-6:20-9:45 Tue 2:45-6:20-9:45 Wed-Thu 3-6:20-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 9:55
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Sun 11:35-2:25-5:15-8:05-11 Mon 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:20 Tue 2:25-5:15-8:05-11 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:20
Philomena (PG) Fri 12:55-3:45-6:35-9:25 Sat 11-12:55-3:45-6:35-9:25 Sun-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:35-9:25
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (STC) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (G) No Passes Thu 7-10
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:45-7:45-10:40
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 5

Clova
5732-176th St., Surrey,

Frozen (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:30-7 Mon-Thu 7

Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey

Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Thu 8:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Thu 4:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 3D (G) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30
Ender's Game (PG) Sat-Sun 2:30
Free Birds (G) Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30
Free Birds 3D (G) Fri-Thu 4:30
Gravity (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 8:30
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri-Thu 4:50
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Thu 6:45
Oldboy (18A) Fri-Thu 8:55

Strawberry Hill Grande
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 2-4:50-7:40-10:30
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
Bhaji in Problem (G) Fri-Sun 1:05-4-7:05-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:05-4-7:05-10
Frozen (G) Fri 1:35-4:15-6:50 Sat 11-1:35-4:15-6:50 Sun 1:35-4:15-6:50 Mon-Tue 1:35-4:10-6:50
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:15-5:50-9:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-12-3-3:30-6:40-7:10-10:20-10:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 12-3-3:30-6:40-7-10:05-10:30
Homefront (14A) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:20-10:45 Sun 12:40-10:45 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:10-5:35-8-10:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:30-9:35-10:40 Mon-Tue 12:45-4:10-7:20-9:35-10:30 Wed 4:10-7:20-10:30 Thu 12:45-4:10-7:20-10:30 Fri-Sun 12:20-3:35-7-10:15 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
R... Rajkumar (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:05-7:20-10:30
Ram-Leela (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-5:45-9:15
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Tue 2:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Thu 2:10
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 5-7:45-10:35 Mon-Tue 5-7:45-10:30 Wed-Thu 5-7:45-10:35
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 5

Studio 12 Guildford
15051-101st Ave, Surrey

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 7-10
The Book Thief (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:20-6:35-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:35-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 6:35-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 3:20-6:35-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:35-9:45
Frozen (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 3:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 9:30
Frozen 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-6:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-7-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:15-2-6:30-7-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-7-10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 3:45-4:30-7:30-8-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 12-12:45-3-3:45-4:30-7:30-8-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon 7:30-8-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Tue 3:45-4:30-7:30-8-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 4:30-7:30-8-9:15
Homefront (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:35-6:50-10:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:35-4:35-6:50-10:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 6:50-10:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 4:35-6:50-10:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:50-10:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4-4:45-7:15-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:15-1:30-4-4:45-7:15-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 7:15-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 4-4:45-7:15-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:15-9

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Out of the Furnace (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:20-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:25-4:20-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 4:20-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:10-9:50
R... Rajkumar (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:40-7:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:35-4:40-7:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 7:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 4:40-7:45
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:15-7:20-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-4:15-7:20-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 7:20-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 4:15-7:20-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:20-10

Rialto
1732-152nd Street, White Rock

The Book Thief (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat 2-7-9:15 Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Philomena (PG) Fri 7:10-9 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9 Mon-Thu 7:10-9

Criterion 4 White Rock
2381 King George Highway

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) Wed-Thu 7-9:20
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2:20-7-9:20 Mon-Tue 7-9:20
Frozen (G) Fri 7:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:15-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 7:45 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:45 Mon-Thu 7:45

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12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-3:05-6:45-9:50 Mon-Tue 3:05-6:45-9:50
American Hustle (14A) Thu 7-10:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 3:05-5:05-6:45-8-9:50-10:55
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:20-10:10 Mon-Tue 4:05-7:20-10:10 Wed 3-10:10 Thu 4:05
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Thu 9:20
Dallas Buyers Club (14A) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:25-10:05
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:45-5:20-8:05-10:35 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:05-10:35
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:25-6:20 Mon-Tue 3:25-6:20 Wed 6:20 Thu 3:25-6:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3:25
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:25-5:05-7:45-10:25 Mon-Thu 5:05-7:45-10:25
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 11:50-2:05-4:35-7:05-9:35 Sun 11:50-9:50 Mon-Wed 4:35-7:05-9:35 Thu 4:35
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-5:10-8:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:10-8:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Mon-Tue 3:30-7-10:40 No Passes Wed-Thu 3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4:30-8:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:30-8:15 No Passes Fri-Sun 2:15-5:50-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:50-9:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Mon-Tue 3-6:30-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 3-6:40-10:20
Holiday Inn (STC) Wed 7
Homefront (14A) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:20-5-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 5-7:50-10:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:45 Sat 4-7:30-10:45 Sun 1:15-3:20-4:20-6:30-7:30-10:45 Mon-Tue 4:20-7:30-10:45 Wed 6:30 Thu 3:20-3:50-6:30-7-9:45-10:15 Fri-Sat 12:15-12:45-3:20-3:50-6:30-7-9:45-10:15 Sun 12:15-12:45-3:50-7-9:45-10:15 Mon-Tue 3:20-3:50-6:30-7-9:45-10:15 Wed 3:20-7-9:45-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 9:55
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:55-10:40 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:55-10:40
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sun 11:35-2:10-4:55-7:35-10 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:35-10
Saving Mr. Banks (G) No Passes Thu 7-10:20
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 12:20 Sat 1 Sun 12:20
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 3:10-6:15-9:15 Sat 3:45-6:45-9:45 Sun-Thu 3:10-6:15-9:15
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 5

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire. CONTRIBUTED

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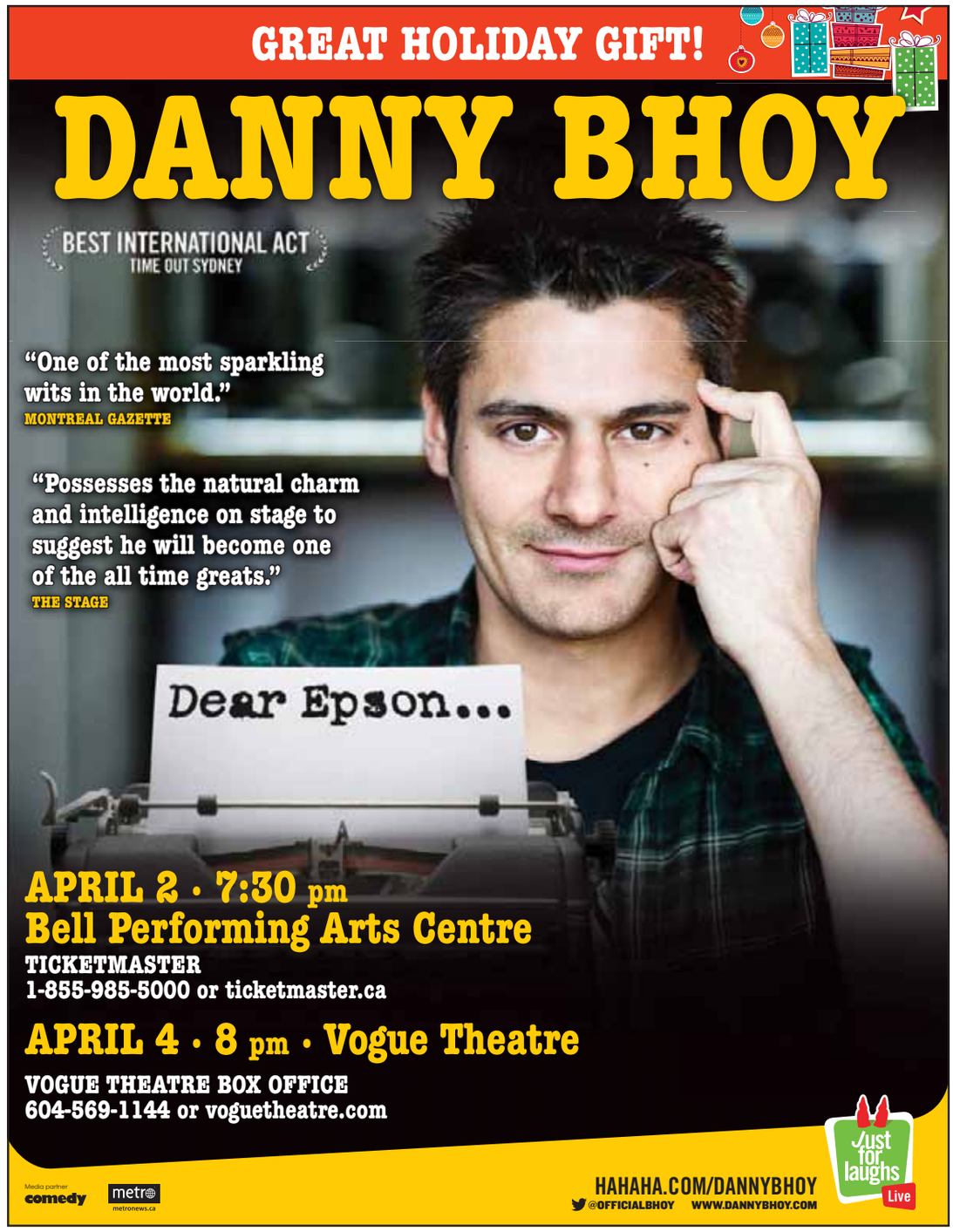

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Paul Walker

Investigation into Walker crash could take 90 days

Funeral services will be held this weekend for Paul Walker, but the cause of the Nov. 30 car crash that claimed the lives of the Fast and Furious star and his friend, Roger Rodas, could remain a mystery for up to 90 days as authorities investigate, according to the Hollywood Reporter. A police spokesman says that any reports at this point about what caused the Porsche Carrera GT Rodas was driving to strike a light pole, two trees and a street sign are purely speculative. A coroner's report has already ruled the deaths to be accidental.

Barron Hilton beating

Paris-Lindsay smackdown still has legs

It looks like Lindsay Lohan might not be in the clear just yet for the alleged beating of Barron Hilton in Miami last week, as the hotel heir — and younger brother to Paris Hilton — had his lawyer reach out to Miami Beach police to discuss their investigation, according to Radar Online.

"A meeting is being scheduled for Mr. Hilton to give a formal statement about the incident," a police spokesman says. Hilton reportedly wants Lohan's friend Ray LeMoine charged for the attack, but he'd initially backed off. "He has been made aware that there are incriminating photos that, if released, could tell a very different side of what took place," a source says. While Lohan hasn't currently been implicated in the incident, sources say Hilton believes she ordered LeMoine to beat him up.

Madge splits with (much) younger beau

Madonna has split up with boyfriend Brahim Zaibat after three years of dating, the singer's rep confirms to Us Weekly. "It ran its course," a source says. "They were dancing and working together all the time, and then they barely saw each other." Madonna first started dating the then-25-year-old dancer in 2010 before hiring him on as a backup dancer for her 2012 world tour.

Madonna. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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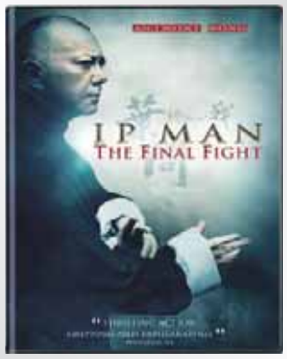

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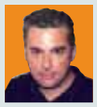

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

As sure as Rudolph was a reindeer, you're going to feel some level of stress over the holidays — possibly when choosing a wine to match with your family feast.

Since Charles was a little Dickens, turkey has been the headliner. Unfortunately, the bird never travels alone. It's always surrounded by sweet and savoury sides that can throw a curve ball at even the most accommodating wine match.

If you're a white wine fan, think sparkling. A fresh bubbly is the great equalizer, pairing with just about everything (even if you decide on red meat or seafood this Xmas).

The classic turkey-meets-stuffing-meets-cranberry scenario that will play out on most tables is a lover of full-bodied chardonnay. Try one with a touch of oaky goodness from Australia, Chile, Canada or California.

Whites with a hint of residual sugar like savoury and sweet. The balanced, juicy fruit of Moselland's 2012 Ars Vitis Riesling ($9.95 - $16.99) is a guaranteed crowd pleaser that looks as good as it tastes.

Next week: My red picks. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fancy doesn't have to mean complicated

Spinach-stuffed Chicken Thighs. This dish makes it possible to dazzle guests without much effort

1. In skillet over medium heat, wilt spinach until reduced. Let cool until easily handled, then squeeze moisture from spinach. Finely chop. You should have about 1/3 cup. Set aside.

2. Using paring knife, remove skin and bone from 2 chicken thighs. Place them in food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Add ice and process until absorbed. Add sour cream and pulse again until well mixed. Add spinach, 1/2 teaspoon salt, fennel, lemon zest, nutmeg and 1/8 teaspoon black pepper. Pulse, scraping down sides, until mixed. Set aside.

3. Arrange remaining thighs on cutting board, skin side up. Carefully pull back skin, leaving attached on one end. Divide ground chicken and spinach mixture evenly between 6 thighs, spreading it evenly. Stretch skin back over filling on each thigh. Arrange stuffed thighs on plate, cover with plastic wrap and chill for at least 1 hour and up to overnight.

4. When ready to cook, heat the oven to 400 F. In oven-safe skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Season chicken skin lightly with salt and pepper, then add the chicken to the skillet, skin side down. Cook until skin is golden brown, then use tongs to turn thighs skin side up. Place skillet in the oven and roast for 25 minutes, or until the thighs reach 160 F.

5. Remove skillet from the oven and cover with foil. Let rest 5 minutes before transferring each thigh to serving plate. Spoon any juices from skillet over the thighs before serving. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.**

Ingredients

- 5 oz baby spinach
- 2 lbs skin-on, bone-in chicken thighs (8 thighs)
- 2 tbsp crushed ice
- 1/3 cup low-fat sour cream
- Kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp fennel seeds, crushed
- 1 tsp grated lemon zest
- 1/8 tsp grated nutmeg
- Ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

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NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Now Open: The Stable House Bistro

Shopping on South Granville just got a bit sweeter with the recent opening of neighbourhood bistro The Stable House (1520 W. 13th Ave.). Head over when you've got a hankering for sharable plates, pastries, charcuterie and plenty more. A large bar, lounge area with high tops and more formal dining area afford a cozy atmosphere away from the boutique bustle outside. thestabelhouse.ca.

Festival of Lights (5251 Oak Street)

Launching in time for the weekend from 4:30 to 9 p.m. each night, take in a magical experience in the city's most celebrated gardens courtesy of 1.4 million twinkling lights. The Festival of Lights at Van Dusen Botanical Gardens (5251 Oak St.) brings with it a mystical way to get into the holiday spirit with live music, Scandinavian gnomes entertaining you, the Parade of Lego exhibit and featured choirs performing. vandusengarden.org.

Make it a DIY Christmas

Back for it's 14th year of holiday crafting madness, check out this weekend's finds at the Maritime Labour Centre (1889 Triumph St.) for Got Craft! It's a do-it-yourself dream featuring the works of dozens of artisans. Enjoy DJ music to help keep you in the shopping mood, partake in a crafting workshop, nosh on sweet treats and plenty more. Need additional incentive? Get there early to score a free swag bag (first 50 through the door). gotcraft.com.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens Paper Lantern Lessons

This Saturday, stop by the seasonally decorated Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens (578 Carrall Street) and take in an opportunity to create a one of a kind lantern with workshops led by lantern artist and Director of the Winter Solstice Lantern Festival Naomi Singer. Spots are limited, so call to reserve. Visit the front desk to get tickets or pay by phone (604-662-3207). vancouverchinesegarden.com.

Recently Opened: Yolk's Brunch

Get your breakfast fix at this newly opened spot at 1298 E. Hastings St. serving up plenty of early morning treats that will satisfy any appetite. Try one of their many different breakfast sandwiches (build your own style), grab some granola, or go a bit fancy with duck confit … or down-home with a serving of chicken and waffles. They're open every day from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. yolks.ca.

Recently Opened: The Fish Counter

Stock up on sustainable, OceanWise seafood and score some sweet deals this weekend at The Fish Counter (3825 Main St.). This is a great (and healthy) one-stop shop worth checking out. They've got a huge selection of take-out items such as ready-made fish tacos, fish n' chips, soups and more – working with local and seasonal seafood producers to ensure you get the best (and freshest). thefishcounter.com.

Join the Kid Carson Show live for Kid Cares in support of the Greater Vancouver Food Bank!
6 am to 10 am today at the London Drugs at the corner of Granville and Georgia.
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HITS. NOW.

As light as snow? The iPad Air is a hot tech gift this season — PAGE 42

Create lasting memories by reading holiday books with the family — PAGE 44

Games will delight finding the latest releases under the tree — PAGE 52

12 shopping days left

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All I want for Christmas

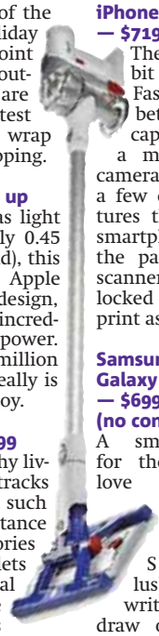
iPad Air — $519 and up

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Electronics are one of the most popular holiday gifts. Don't disappoint by giving someone outdated tech. Here are some of the hottest gadgets to help you wrap up your holiday shopping.

iPad Air — $519 and up
A new iPad that is as light as air. Weighing only 0.45 kilograms (one pound), this latest tablet from Apple features a thinner design, smaller bezel and incredibly fast processing power. With almost half a million apps available this really is a gift anyone can enjoy.

FitBit Force — $129.99
Give the gift of healthy living. The FitBit Force tracks your daily activities such as steps taken, distance travelled, and calories burned and then lets you see them in real time across multiple devices. It tracks your sleep at night and wakes you up with a silent alarm.



Samsung Galaxy NX — $1,599
This impressive 20.3-megapixel camera will stun the shutterbug on your list. The Galaxy NX packs 3G/4G plus Wi-Fi so you can snap a pic, then instantly share to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social media. With interchangeable lenses, you get infinite imaging possibilities.

iPhone 5s — $719 (no contract)
The world's first 64-bit smartphone. Faster processor, better graphical capabilities and a much better camera are just a few of the features that make this smartphone stand out from the pack. Plus, a TouchID scanner keeps your device locked using your fingerprint as the key.

Samsung Galaxy Note 3 — $699 (no contract)
A smartphone for those who love a large screen. Paired with the S Pen (stylus) you can write notes, draw on maps or edit photos without relying on your fingers. It will also transcribe your handwriting into text.

Sony 4K Ultra HDTV — $4,499.99
Help someone build the ultimate man cave with Sony's latest television that boasts four times the resolution of HDTV. This TV up-converts HD video into 4K resolution, which is handy since true 4K content is quite limited. Gamers will love the feature that allows two player games with no split screen. You can also control this TV with your smartphone.

Nest Protect — $129
The smoke and carbon monoxide detector re-invented. This device remembers which room it is installed in and announces where the problem is. Hush false alarms with a wave of the hand and check battery levels using your iOS device.

Samsung Galaxy Gear — $329.99
Wearable technology is finally here. Pair it with select Samsung smartphones to receive notifications of incoming emails and texts. Make phone calls from your watch or snap pictures and record video with the built-in camera.

Dyson Hard — $349.99
Vacuums may not seem like a great gift, but this vacuum breaks all the rules. This high-tech, cordless Dyson Hard is specifically designed for cleaning hard flooring. Using dual suction channels, it sucks up debris as it removes grime using a wet wipe in a single action. Wet wipes are sold separately.

HP Envy Recline 23 All-in-One PC — $1,350 US
Use it like a regular desktop PC in the upright position, or recline the monitor flat and use it as a large tablet. The 10-point touchscreen ensures you will get the most out of Windows 8 while the integrated Beats Audio speakers with subwoofer will provide rich, dynamic sound for those who want more out of their computer.

HP Envy Recline 23 All-in-One PC — $1,350 US

Panasonic Lumix GM1 — $749.99 US
The world's smallest Micro Four Thirds camera to date. Fashionable design, yet loaded with features. Budding photographers will love the intelligent assistance that will help you take the perfect photo, while experienced shutterbugs can take advantage of full manual controls. Built-in Wi-Fi makes sharing those memories even easier.

Sony 4K Ultra HD TV — $4,499.99, clockwise, from left, Dyson Hard — $349.99, Samsung Galaxy Note 3 — $699 (no contract), Samsung Galaxy Gear — $329.99, and FitBit Force — $129.99.

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The greatest stories of the season

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

Do you remember your parents reading you a beloved holiday story? If you are on the lookout for a great book to share with your family this year, try one of these festive favourites and classics, recommended by Robin Tameshtit, director of kids and teen print at Indigo.

Elf On The Shelf
This fun Christmas advent game and story will help build holiday excitement. It's become an instant favourite with a dedicated fan following and loads of Christmas magic. (Carol Aebersold, $34.99, Zibbers Inc.).

How The Grinch Stole Christmas
This perennial classic is fantastic to read aloud and has a heartwarming holiday message about the affects the Christmas spirit can have on even the smallest and coldest of hearts. (Dr. Seuss, $18.99, Random House of Canada).

The Night Before Christmas
This enduring classic is brought to life by the signature plasticine art of Canadian favourite Barbara Reid. A perfectly adorable take on the Christmas Eve tale. (Clement Moore, $19.99, Scholastic Book Services).

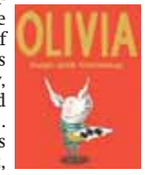
Scaredy Squirrel Prepares For Christmas
A quirky, fun-filled guide of practical tips and nutty step-by-step instructions to help readers prepare for Christmas — being prepared is so much fun with the adorable Scaredy Squirrel. (Melanie Watt, $18.95, University of Toronto Press).

Olivia Helps With Christmas
The fabulous, dramatic piglet is back and ready to help out with the holidays in the way only this adorable pig can. Sure to bring about giggling and holiday cheer in this board book edition. (Ian Falconer, $9.99, Simon & Schuster Canada).

Polar Express
Winner of the 1986 Caldecott Medal, it's the story of a boy's magical train ride to the north pole on Christmas Eve to receive a special gift from Santa. A guaranteed holiday favourite. (Chris Van Allsburg, $23.95, Thomas Allen & Son Ltd.).

Night Before Christmas — 10th Anniversary
This loved Christmas classic poem comes to life in this perfect edition that you will read with your family year after year. Includes stunning illustrations by Christian Birmingham. (Clement C. Moore, $11.50, Perseus Distribution).

Peanuts — A Charlie Brown Christmas
A no-fail classic to share with an excellent dose of nostalgia. Read along with Charlie Brown in his heartwarming quest to uncover the true meaning of Christmas with Snoopy, Linus, and friends. (Charles M. Schulz, $21.00, Perseus Distribution).



Porcupine In A Pine Tree Gift Set
A Canadian version of the 12 Days of Christmas, complete with fun rhymes and adorable illustrations. The deluxe box set comes with an adorably huggable plush porcupine. (Helaine Becker, $24.99, Scholastic Book Services).

That's Not My Snowman
Delightfully wintery, this board book is great for the littlest revellers. Combines colourful illustrations with a variety of different textures to touch and feel. (F. Watt, $11.95, Penguin Canada Books Inc.).

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Give her glowing holiday glam

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

Wonderful makeup and skin care treats for the ladies on your gift list.

Formula X for Sephora, The Twenty-Two. A comprehensive starter set of Sephora's new line of cream, bright and chrome polishes and fantastical top coats for every nail colour enthusiast. $66 at Sephora and sephora.ca.

Benefit Cosmetics Advent Calendar. Twenty-four days of adorable makeup minis. $79 at Sephora.

Philosophy Festive Favorites Skincare Gift Set. A genius way to give greatest-hits skin care. $94 ($150 value) at Sephora, Hudson's Bay, Shoppers Drug Mart.

Cool-it Caddy Icepops Freezeable Cosmetics Case. Freeze-and-go bag keeps sunscreen and lipstick from melting as you lounge for hours on that tropical beach. $23.95, plus shipping, at TheShoppingChannel.com.

Make Up For Ever Artisan Makeup Brushes. Beautifully constructed, innovative professional tools five years in the making. Double-Ended Sculpting Brush 158, and Medium Paint Brush 412. $61 and $49 at Sephora.

Michael Kors Beauty. Launched this fall, covetable cosmetics from jet-set leisure-wear designer Kors. From $20 to $55 at Hudson's Bay.

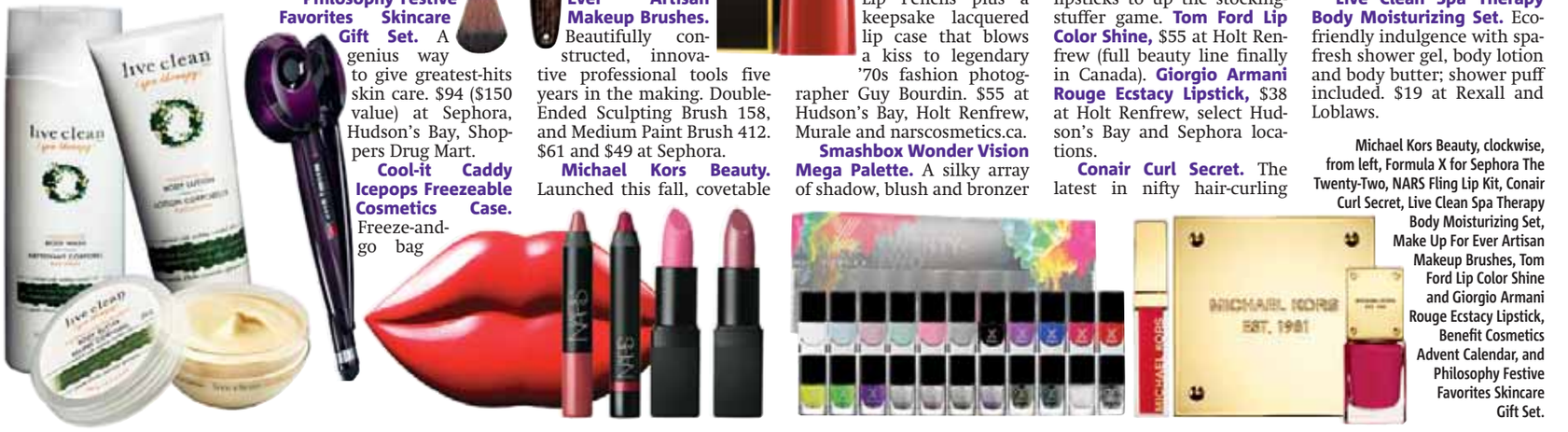
NARS Fling Lip Kit. Two signature sheer lipsticks and mini Velvet Matte Lip Pencils plus a keepsake lacquered lip case that blows a kiss to legendary '70s fashion photographer Guy Bourdin. $55 at Hudson's Bay, Holt Renfrew, Murale and narscosmetics.ca.

Smashbox Wonder Vision Mega Palette. A silky array of shadow, blush and bronzer in a variety of finishes plus professional how-to tips. $58 at Shoppers Drug Mart, Murale, Sephora and smashbox.com.

Luxe Lipsticks. Beautiful, elegant lipsticks to up the stocking-stuffer game. **Tom Ford Lip Color Shine,** $55 at Holt Renfrew (full beauty line finally in Canada). **Giorgio Armani Rouge Ecstacy Lipstick,** $38 at Holt Renfrew, select Hudson's Bay and Sephora locations.

Conair Curl Secret. The latest in nifty hair-curling technology — seeing is believing. $119 at Shoppers Drug Mart and Walmart.

Live Clean Spa Therapy Body Moisturizing Set. Eco-friendly indulgence with spa-fresh shower gel, body lotion and body butter; shower puff included. $19 at Rexall and Loblaws.



Michael Kors Beauty, clockwise, from left, Formula X for Sephora The Twenty-Two, NARS Fling Lip Kit, Conair Curl Secret, Live Clean Spa Therapy Body Moisturizing Set, Make Up For Ever Artisan Makeup Brushes, Tom Ford Lip Color Shine and Giorgio Armani Rouge Ecstacy Lipstick, Benefit Cosmetics Advent Calendar, and Philosophy Festive Favorites Skincare Gift Set.

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Tell me the story of Everest," she said, a fervent smile sweeping across her face, creasing the corners of her eyes. "Tell me about this mountain that's stealing you away from me."
George and Ruth sat on the drawing room floor, laughing and tipsy, dinner growing cold on the table in the next room. Ruth was cross-legged opposite him, her gray skirt pulled tight across her knees. She picked up the single sheet of thick ivory paper from her lap and reread the invitation from the newly formed Mount Everest Committee again. "My husband, the world-famous explorer." Ruth held up her glass of wine and he reached out with his own, the crystal ringing in the lamplit room. She was fairly bursting with happiness.
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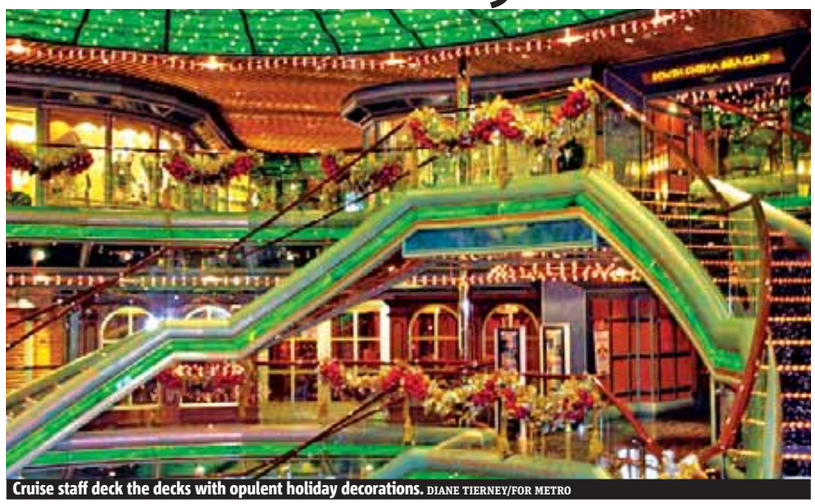
A cruise for Christmas makes a great gift for everyone from kids to grandparents. HOLLAND AMERICA PHOTO

Spend the holiday at sea

DIANE TIERNEY
For Metro



Cruise staff deck the decks with opulent holiday decorations. DIANE TIERNEY/FOR METRO

You can still have a white Christmas in the Caribbean, Mexico or any other warm climate if you take a cruise. Most cruise lines go crazy when it comes to creating a festive atmosphere for the holidays, even if it means making fake snow and decking the decks with holiday decor.

Atriums, lobbies and lounges will be graced with gigantic Christmas trees, some soaring three decks high. Staircase banisters are draped with garlands dripping with holly. Lavish wreaths hang on doors. Stockings hang from faux fireplaces.

Cruise lines take extra delight in performing opulent holiday pageants and serving sumptuous meals to honour the season.

Plus, if your kids are worried that Santa won't find them at sea, no need. Santa has been known to parasail onto the deck, making kids think he just jumped out of his sleigh from the sky.

Family-oriented cruise lines such as Carnival, Holland America and Royal Caribbean are extra sweet at keeping spirits high.

"We traditionally see very strong demand for Christmas cruises," said Terry Thornton, senior vice-president of marketing for Carnival. "The pricing is affordable and we have ships departing from about a dozen U.S. ports to make them easy to drive to rather than fly."

The growing trend for holiday cruises is to make it a family reunion. To accommodate large groups, cruise lines have created more inter-connecting cabins, as well as condo-sized staterooms that can sleep more than one family.

"In recent years, we've hosted many more multi-generational families, from kids and grandparents to their extended family members," Thornton said.

"A cruise allows guests of all ages and interests to spend the holidays together."

Carnival features special holiday-themed entertainment, children's programs and traditional meals — turkey, mincemeat pies, eggnog and more. Passengers celebrating Hanukkah can enjoy menus with potato latkes, matzo ball soup and gefilte fish.

On Royal Caribbean, young passengers participate in gingerbread house contests, decorate Christmas cookies, make ornaments and prepare a pageant to show parents.

Santa Claus, with his sack full of toys, visits with children and there is usually a fair in the atrium that offers youngsters games, contests, balloon animals and face painting.

The sophisticated shows in the theatres focus their musicals on the season. Or for those passengers who like entertainment that's more subdued, there are readings of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas and classic TV movies to watch in your cabin.

Holland America passengers enjoy gala feasts, caroling, holiday shows, tree lightings, visits with Santa and a variety of religious services.

"We also have the crew perform a show that features their own special traditions," said Erik Elvejord, Holland America director of public relations.

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Lululemon Sweat Once a Day Bag, $128, available at Lululemon, lululemon.com.

Canada Goose HyBridge Lite Vest, $325, available at canadagoose.com.

Lululemon Practice Daily Pant, $98, available at Lululemon, lululemon.com.

Adidas by Stella McCartney Quarter-Zip Run Performance Hoodie, $120, available at Sporting Life, sportinglife.ca.

Under Armour ColdGear Infrared Cleopatra Jacket, $314.99, available at Underarmour.com.

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Cookies and butterscotch sauce are included in chef Michael Smith's holiday gift basket. NATHAN ROCHFORD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gift baskets can help teach spirit of giving

Michael Smith wants his children to understand that the Christmas season is about using their time and talent to bring joy to others.

The Canadian chef has been assembling baskets of mainly foodie gifts to give to close family members and friends for about a decade, and putting them together has evolved into an activity that he and his children enjoy together.

"I think the spirit of these baskets is teaching your kids that giving is more important than receiving," he said in a telephone interview from Fortune, P.E.I. "I know that's where the whole idea started for me was years ago, just frustrated with all the stuff flowing one way into the house for the kids and not necessarily feeling like they were engaged with the giving side of things and really trying to figure out a way for them to create a tradition."

Making a basket for someone you care about is personal and perhaps easier in some ways than braving the shops. It can be tailored to the person and your economic situation and need not be expensive.

Smith puts six to eight items in each basket and makes up about 25 of them for close friends and family, then delivers them just before Christmas.

"Anybody can go out and spend 100 bucks and buy some fancy new cookbook or something for your kitchen or some nameless whatever, some anonymous sort of gift — maybe it's special, maybe it's well thought out, but you know what I mean," he said.

"There's nothing more precious than giving your time, than giving your talent."

Smith will be seen as a judge on Chopped Canada, premiering on Food Network Canada Jan. 2, and currently hosts the instructional cooking series Chef Michael's Kitchen. He has also hosted The Inn Chef, Chef at Home, Chef at Large and Chef Abroad, so it's not surprising that his baskets take on a food theme, but he says they can be tailored to the interests of the giver or recipient.

Each basket always contains a handmade ornament created by him and his children. Gabe, 11, and Ariella, 5, play an active role, and Smith expects one-year-old Camille will take part in the future.

They often use different coloured clays and bake them into shapes, such as snowmen, wreaths or Christmas trees. Last year it was a small box gift-wrapped with ribbons.

"We know we have friends who can look at their tree and see six, seven, eight years worth of ornaments that the kids have made for them. It's pretty cool."

"I also like to include what I call the foodie find," says Smith, who led the team of chefs that cooked at the Whistler athletes village during the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games and helped make the Canada Summer Games athletes village a junk-food-free zone.

"Over the run of the year I run into a lot of really cool food items and some of them really stick out and are so good that I really feel like sharing them with my friends."

This year he has chosen Cherry Lane concentrated tart cherry juice from Ontario's Niagara region. A personalized dark chocolate bar sprinkled with sea salt and nicknamed The Islander is a nod to Smith's role as food ambassador for P.E.I. will be included.

"And then outside the world of food I like to do a gag gift in there every year, something silly. This year it's actually going to be candy insects. We found earlier this year a company that sells five different cans of canned insect protein, like a can full of crickets sort of thing. Totally edible, totally legit."

For anyone contemplating making up gift baskets, Smith recommends visiting a craft store for inexpensive baskets, fun labels and other decorations.

"Keep it simple and really understand that first and foremost you're giving yourself and you're giving your time and it doesn't need to meet that sort of over-the-top standard of Martha Stewart or the pictures you see in the magazines," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Personal touch

"Keep it simple and really understand that first and foremost you're giving yourself and you're giving your time and it doesn't need to meet that sort of over-the-top standard of Martha Stewart or the pictures you see in the magazines."

Chef Michael Smith

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Go green with your wrapping this season. SYDA PRODUCTIONS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Green for the season. Wrapping with scrap

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

Feeling eco-minded about your festive gift wrap? No one likes to see all that expensive paper filling up the trash.

So go green this season and try some of these ideas, compiled with the help of Toronto-based eco crafts expert Mona Dhanjal, and wrap with scrap.

• Turn an old book into a fancy reusable gift box by carving out the pages with a utility knife. Then line it with felt and glue on some old holiday cards.

• Glue old photos or postcards to bags, boxes or paper to make unique wrap or gift tags with a personal touch. Trim with fancy edges using pinking shears.

• Paint an old suitcase festive colours, glue on travel stickers or a festive scene cut out of old holiday wrap or cards, and tie on a shipping tag and a big red bow. Fill it with hard-to-wrap gifts. Doubles as perfect storage for holiday ornaments.

• Turn leftover wallpaper into beautiful origami boxes. You can get easy instructions online.

• Bits of felt can be used to make gift tags or little pouches and envelopes.

• Wrap in burlap. It's biodegradable, it looks great and it's reusable.

• Sew or knit a handy reusable tote bag from bits of cloth with holiday designs, velvet and lace.

• Fill a pretty wicker basket with gift items and dress it up with a bow — no need to wrap.

• Instead of holiday gift wrap, wrap using other scrap paper such as old magazines, sheet music, maps or calendars.

• Embellish gifts with items found in nature, like berry sprigs, pinecones, or springs of greenery.

• Wire miniature orphaned ornaments and beads together to add luxe to a simple gift tag.

• Crumple, iron and pleat used tissue paper, then layer it on gift boxes or bags.

• Wrap a gift in a holiday scarf or a cloth napkin, which can be used later to line a bread basket on a holiday table.

• Get the kids to decorate white or brown kraft paper with stamps, stickers or holiday themed cut-outs from old gift cards or wrap. Or create artwork to use as wrap.

More tips

- Recycle gift tags from year to year.
- Raffia or string looks just as pretty as ribbon.
- Eliminate tape if you are going to recycle paper.

Pets shouldn't be surprise gifts

JANE DOUCET
For Metro

If you are thinking about giving a pet to someone this holiday season, it's best if it isn't a surprise. Whether you plan to adopt from a rescue group or shelter or buy from a breeder or pet store, the general guidelines are the same.

"We do adopt out dogs and cats successfully during our annual Home for the Holidays program, but we don't allow them to be adopted as surprise gifts," said Sandra Flemming, the director of animal care for the Nova Scotia SPCA.

Before an animal can be adopted from the SPCA during the holidays, everyone who lives in the home must confirm that they are on board — it can't even be a surprise for the kids.

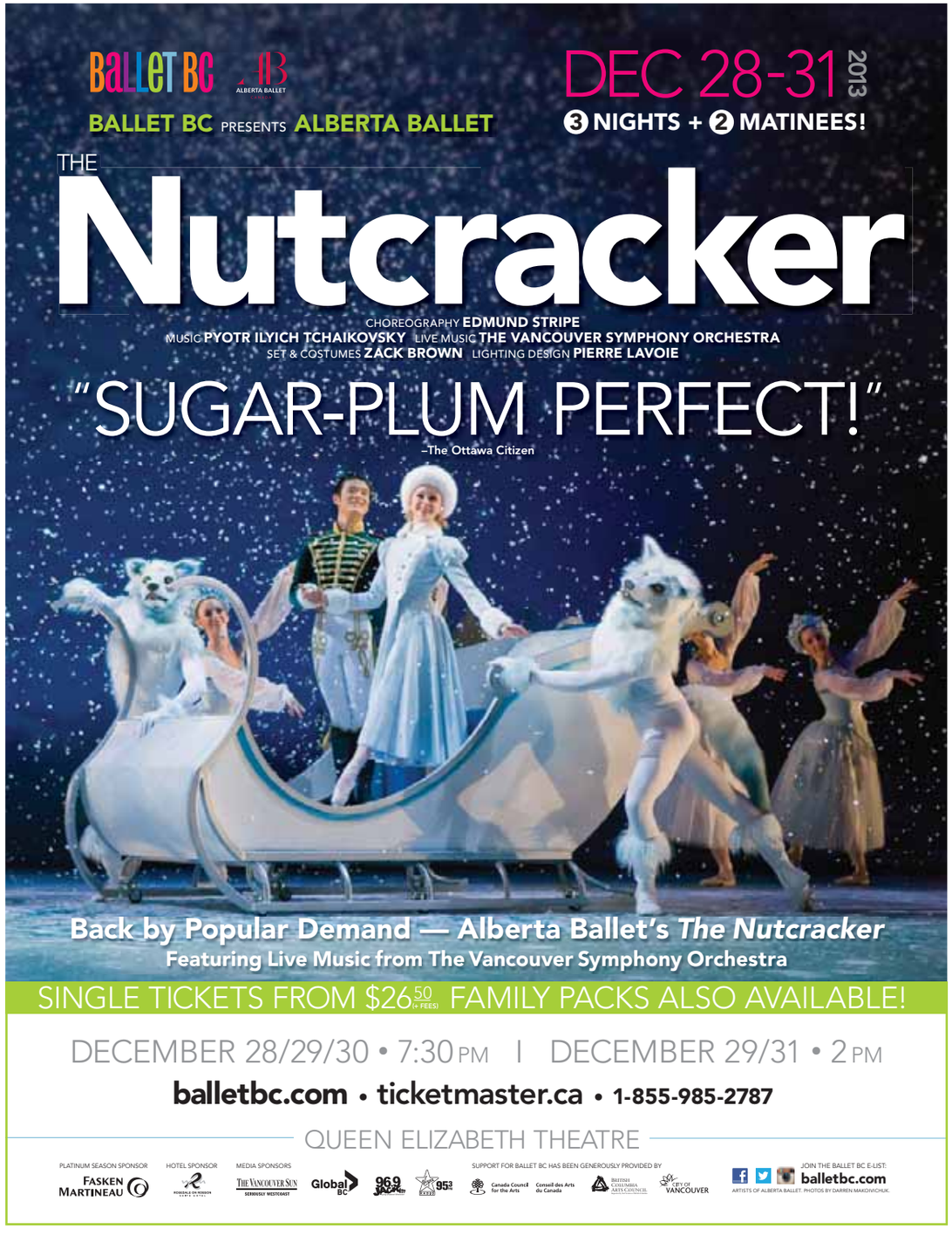
Getting the entire family's consent lowers the chances that the animal will be returned to the shelter because someone is allergic or afraid of it. It also means the adopters will have discussed up front whether they can afford a pet and have the time and energy to take care of it.

For those who know a friend or relative who wants to adopt an SPCA animal, a gift certificate is ideal.

"It allows the person to choose their own pet when the time is right," Flemming said.

One of the most important things to decide is which type of animal will suit your lifestyle.

"Cats and kittens are less work for busy people than dogs and puppies," Flemming said.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Gather all ye around a video game

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Video games continue to be a hot holiday gift for both young and old. Here are some of the top titles for all ages this holiday season.

The Last of Us — PS3
This character-driven action adventure is easily one of the best games for the Playstation 3 this year. A virus spreads across the U.S., turning the population into deadly abominations. An unlikely duo must make their way across a post-pandemic U.S. in the unlikely hope of bringing it all to an end. While the game is amazing, the language and fright factor means mature gamers only.

Beyond: Two Souls — PS3
An incredible psychological action-thriller featuring the voices of Canada's own Ellen Page, along with William Dafoe. A young women possesses supernatural powers through a psychic link to an invisible entity. This game is completely different from any other on the market. Features incredible storytelling, playing out more as a movie than an action game.

Grand Theft Auto 5 — Xbox 360, PS3
Take on the role of three criminals in the latest instalment of this controversial franchise. GTA 5 features one of the largest and diverse open worlds to discover. Fight rival street gangs, pull off dramatic heists or simply explore the vast city of Los Santos. This groundbreaking series is filled with violence and coarse language so don't even consider purchasing this for youngsters. Mature gamers only.

Super Mario 3D World — Wii U
The perfect game to play as a family. Super Mario 3D World is the first 3D Mario platformer for Nintendo's Wii U console. Play as Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach or Toad as you overcome wildly creative obstacles. Get ready for new power-ups like the cat suit and, of course, new never-seen-before enemies like sand Goombas.

Far Cry 3 — Xbox 360, PS3
Stranded in a tropical paradise and fighting to survive, Far Cry 3 brings incredible game play with one of the most memorable villains. Explore an island full of secrets and use the environment to craft items and weapons to help you survive.

Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag — Multiple consoles
Take the helm of your ship and live the life of a pirate. Explore open waters and dive for treasure in this historical action-adventure featuring many figures from the golden age of piracy. This franchise has been a favourite, and the latest instalment looks absolutely gorgeous.

Batman Arkham Origins — Xbox 360, PS3
Taking place before the rise of Gotham's most dangerous villains and assassins, this game features a young Batman still in the early stages of his career as a crime fighter. This title introduces the notorious villains Batman will find himself fighting for years to come. A must-have for comic book lovers on your list.

Mastercraft Multi-Purpose Tool Set and Bag, $66.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Holiday handymen

DeWalt 10 Amp Reciprocating Saw, $119, available at Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

Black & Decker Matrix System, $99 for the 12V battery version, available at Canadian Tire, canadian-tire.ca.

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GIFTS OF HOPE: WHEN GIVING IS RECEIVING

Two years ago, Ginger and Scott McClelland decided to see if they could make Christmas a little bit more about giving than receiving. After going through a Gifts of Hope catalogue they had received in the mail, the Ottawa couple chose baby chicks to give to all of their grandchildren.

Gifts of Hope are ethical gifts, which means they give twice — here and abroad. Ginger and Scott felt these gifts were the perfect way to introduce a special kind of holiday giving to their grandchildren. Once the four children, who ranged in age from 10 to 14, had opened the gift card with the picture of a fluffy baby chick on the front, Ginger and Scott explained how the chicks would help support a family in Africa.

"And the kids got very excited very quickly about the gift," Ginger says. "The youngest, Emma, even sent a letter to Santa Claus asking him to make sure the gift got to the family on time."

But the best part of the story was yet to come.

When Christmas came around the following year, the adults in the family agreed that they would exchange Gifts of Hope. However, during the gift exchange the really big surprise was that the four kids had decided that they would exchange Gifts of Hope with each other as well.

"All in all, I think we gave 12 Gifts of Hope, ranging from newborn checkup and a bed net to chicks, a goat, three hens and a rooster," Ginger says. "Our gift to each other was literacy training for two women.

"Sometimes you look at what happens at Christmas and think 'we may be missing the whole point,'" Scott says. "But it was a very emotional and special Christmas last year, and I was incredibly proud of my family."

Gifts of Hope provided everyone in the McClelland family a wonderful way to help make someone else's life a little better and to feel good about it.

"Gifts of Hope really are a unique gift-giving opportunity," says Sangita Patel, director of program management at Plan Canada.

"For people who purchase a gift, it's a way to give a socially conscious gift and to avoid crowded malls. For the recipient, the gift is contributing to important work overseas. For the children of the community that receives the gift, it's about changing and improving their lives."

Plan Canada is one of the world's oldest and largest international development agencies. Founded in 1937, it works in 69 countries and more than 90,000 communities around the world. Gifts of Hope is Plan Canada's increasingly popular year-round ethical giving program, especially popular during the holiday period.

For parents — and grandparents like the McClellands — a Gift of Hope is a great tool to very gently and in a positive way expose children to what life is like for other children in other places, Patel says.

"They provide such a nice teachable moment for kids amidst the holiday rush."

Gifts of Hope support Plan Canada programs in the areas of education, health, clean water, and livelihoods. Fifteen of the gifts are also designated as "Because I am a Girl" gifts, which go to support the work Plan does that directly benefits girls and women.

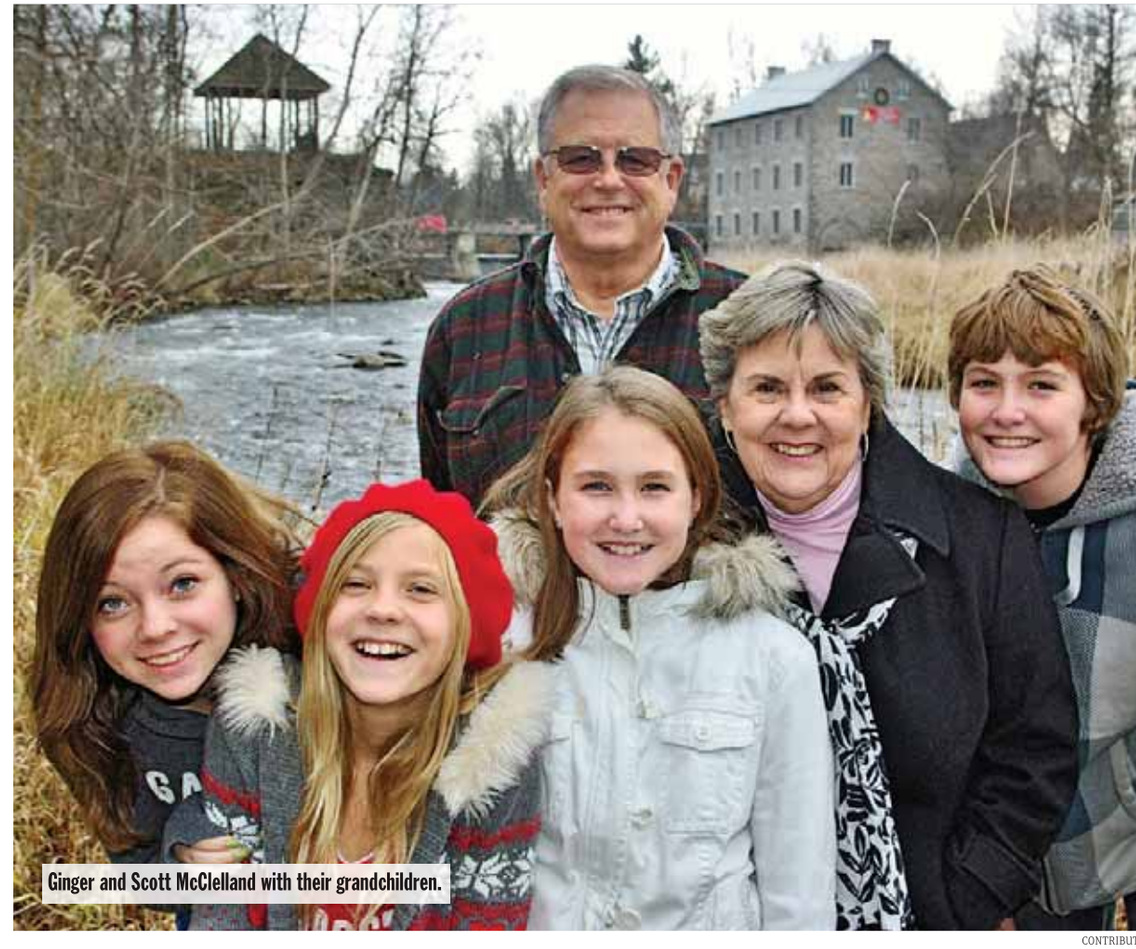
"These gifts help to unleash the power of girls and women to create a brighter, safer future for girls in the developing world," Patel says.

Gifts suit any budget, ranging in price from $10 for anti-malaria bed nets to $75 for a goat to $1,000 for water and sanitation for communities. Sometimes the dollar value of the gift is matched by a government, foundation or corporate partner for even more impact.

"It's a great way to show care for what's happening in other places," Patel says. "And to show children how one gift can make lives better for other kids and families."

One of the McClelland's grandchildren, Ben, 14, says that the Gift of Hope chicks seemed "kind of weird" at first.

"But after I learned more about it, it felt like you could really help other people, and it was nice to be giving something rather than always just getting a lot."



Ginger and Scott McClelland with their grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED

REAL GIFTS THAT CHANGE REAL LIVES

In all, there are 42 Gifts of Hope to choose from, ranging in price from $10 to $50,000. Every gift comes with a free greeting card or e-card, and 26 of the gifts are matched by government, foundation or organizational partners. Here are some examples:

- Bed nets, $10 (matched for a $70 value)
- School essentials for one child, $17 (matched for a $119 value)
- Birth certificate, $25 (matched for $125 value)
- Newborn checkup, $30 (matched for a $120 value)
- Clean water for families, $75 (matched for $225 value)
- Literacy training for two women, $120 (matched for $600 value)
- Farm load of animals, $190 (matched for a $760 value)
- Help orphaned children affected by HIV, $75 (matched for a $1,200 value)

To see more Gifts of Hope or to place an order, visit plangifts.com or call 1-800-387-1418.

Think outside the gift box

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plangifts.com

Founded in 1937, Plan is one of the world's oldest and largest charities working to end global poverty. Inclusive of all faiths and cultures, Plan has only one purpose: to improve the lives of children.

Plan

THE ANATOMY OF AN EMERGENCY

Less than two months ago, super typhoon Haiyan roared towards the eastern islands of the Philippines with winds upwards of 275 kilometres per hour and no one could have imagined the destruction and despair it would leave behind.

With many lives lost, whole villages destroyed, and millions of people left homeless, here is how the relief plan for this large-scale emergency came together, and the important role that UNICEF and UNICEF donors play. UNICEF is the world's leading child-focused humanitarian organization.

MAITEM UNICEF PHOTO

THE DAMAGE

"There were cars on top of uprooted trees, concrete buildings smashed down, and whole communities of shanty towns just gone," says Ken Page of UNICEF, who arrived in Tacloban a few days after the typhoon. "Everything was knocked down and flattened, debris was everywhere, it looked like a bomb had gone off.

"You have some communities where you could say, literally, everybody needs everything," says Page, who is strategic communication adviser, emergencies, at UNICEF headquarters in New York. "These people have lost loved ones, their homes, their jobs. There's nothing left."

Many hundreds of families are living at evacuation points, which are safe structures such as schools, churches, etc.

VALCARCEL SILVELA UNICEF PHOTO

EFFORTS AT WORK

Thanks to UNICEF's efforts in the Philippines:

- 428,000 people now have access to safe drinking water;
- A mass vaccination campaign is underway, reaching more than 30,000 children;
- 19 child-friendly spaces have been opened across the affected islands;
- 10,000 children have been provided with school and play supplies;
- Nearly 25,000 people have been provided with hygiene equipment and sanitation services.

IMMEDIATE HELP

UNICEF is part of the global response system that focused on emergency life-saving during the first few days. Having been in the Philippines since 1967, UNICEF's prepositioned supplies were critical to a quick response providing sanitation equipment to curb an outbreak of disease. At the same time, the entire UNICEF organization was mobilized and 165 emergency experts were dispatched to the most affected areas including Tacloban, Roxas City and Cebu. UNICEF's massive supply depot and division in Copenhagen also started to air lift in supplies.

CLEAN WATER

Within the first week, UNICEF helped to restore a large water treatment plant that was operating at 20 per cent capacity.

"As soon as it came on, you had 30,000 water points in Tacloban and surrounding communities operating at full capacity again," Page says. "This was important for hygiene and well-being, but you also saw kids playing and splashing at a couple of these water points. That was important, too."

HEALTH

UNICEF is a lead partner in the emergency polio and measles vaccination campaign.

"We are vaccinating 30,000 children under the age of five and providing vitamin A supplements to help boost their immunity against diseases," Page says.

IT'S EASY TO DO SOMETHING GREAT

The recovery process in the Philippines has just started. Here is how donations can help.

- $1 per day for a year ($30.42 per month) can buy exercise books for 700 children as well as pencils for a whole school.
- 75 cents per day for a year ($22.81 per month) can provide special water kits for 20 families, giving them access to safe drinking water during the rebuilding.
- 50 cents per day for a year ($15.21 per month) can safeguard 507 children from the devastating effects of measles and tetanus.
- A $50 or $100 Urgent Aid for Philippines Survival Gift will provide life-changing nutrition, education, protection and relief to the children whose needs are the most critical.

The Government of Canada will continue to match donations from Canadians to UNICEF Canada dollar for dollar, up to $100,000 per individual, up to Dec. 23. Sign up for a monthly donation before Dec. 23 and that amount will be matched.

To make a donation, please visit unicef.ca/haiyan or call 1-877-3111.

NUTRITION

UNICEF has screened about 20,000 children for nutritional deficiencies and there are still many to do, Page says. Any child found to be malnourished is enrolled in supplementary feeding programs.

SANITATION

UNICEF helped get Porta Potties to many of the evacuation centres for hygiene, well-being and dignity, Page says.

EDUCATION

With 90 per cent — more than 3,000 — of schools damaged or destroyed in the affected areas, UNICEF has helped to provide critical learning spaces for children by setting up tent schools. Returning to school is an important way to help children feel a sense of normalcy after a disaster.

CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF helped create child-friendly spaces at different evacuation centres and supplied them with education and recreational kits. "These are safe places to be with other children playing and laughing again," Page says.

FUTURE HELP

"It will take years for the Philippines to recover and we really have to help them build back better," Page says.

Contributions over the coming months are critical to UNICEF being able to respond, he says. "And I wouldn't call them donations. They're really making an investment in the children of the Philippines."

PHILIPPINES EMERGENCY:
CHILDREN IN CRISIS

ACT NOW. DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT UNTIL DECEMBER 23.

Thanks to the generosity of the Government of Canada, any amount donated to UNICEF Canada by December 23, 2013, will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $100,000 per individual.

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Online: **unicef.ca/haiyan**

Call: **1 877 955 3111**

Text: **GIVE** to **45678** to donate $10

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*Pricing applies to a 2014 Forester 2.5i 6MT (EJ1 X0) / 2014 XV Crosstrek Touring 5MT (EX1-TP) with MSRP of $28,070 / $26, 570 including freight & PDI ($1,650), documentation fees ($395) and battery and tire tax ($30). License, taxes, insurance and registration extra. Model shown is a 2014 Forester 2.0XT Limited Package CVT (EJ2 XTL) with MSRP of $37,570 including freight & PDI ($1,650), documentation fees ($395) and battery and tire taxes ($30). Taxes, license, registration and insurance are extra. Vehicle shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. Roof sport rack and accessories not included. Dealers may sell for less or may have to order or trade. **1.9% finance and lease rates available on all new 2014 Forester models / 2014 XV Crosstrek models for a 24-month term. Financing and leasing programs available through Toyota Credit Canada Inc. on approved credit. †$500 bonus accessories offer applies to lease, finance and cash agreements for all new 2013 and 2014 Subaru models (excluding the 2014 XV Crosstrek Hybrid) and can be combined with Stackable Cash, Alternate Cash and Legacy VIP program, concluded respectively with TCO. **/ † Offers valid until January 2, 2013. See your local Subaru dealer or visit www.western.subarudealer.ca for complete program details. ◆Ratings of "Good" are the highest rating awarded for performance in five safety tests (moderate overlap front, small overlap front, side, rollover and rear) conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) (www.iihs.org). ▼ To earn a 2013 TOP SAFETY PICK+, a vehicle must receive a "Good" rating in at least four of the five tests and a "Good" or "Acceptable" rating in the fifth test.
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Zdeno Chara and the Bruins won the Stanley Cup in front of many stunned Canucks fans at Rogers Arena on June 15, 2011. HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

Nucks not looking too far ahead

NHL. Saturday night is the big showdown: Canucks versus Bruins

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

There was a constant theme with members of the Vancouver Canucks on Thursday.

It was simple: They're not overlooking the Edmonton Oilers, the Canucks' opponent Friday at Rogers Arena, even if the Boston Bruins — remember them? — are in town Saturday.

It's the first time the Bruins will play in Vancouver since their Game 7 victory over the Canucks to claim the 2011 Stanley Cup.

The Canucks have won five in a row.

"I'm not looking past the Oilers. They're a good team, they're skilled, they got good forwards … they've been playing well, so we've got to be ready for them," said forward Ryan Kesler.

"I'm not looking ahead to Saturday right now. I think tomorrow's a big game for our team. It's a big two points.… They're just as valuable a two points as Saturday," added goalie Roberto Luongo.

Ditto for defenceman Kevin Bieksa.

"We need the two points right now. We're still climbing the standings and we've got a pretty good thing going here in the last five, six games," he said.

You get the idea.

You could argue the buzz around Canucks-Bruins still exists because of that venomous seven-game series nearly three years ago, and the rematch that ensued the following January in Boston.

Does Canucks-Bruins really, truly have any extra meaning now?

"It's a game, obviously there's a little bit of history there," said Luongo.

"But it's just like any other game against Chicago or L.A., or any of those teams that you've faced in the playoffs. There's always a little more energy involved, but that's about it."

Follow Cam Tucker on Twitter @camtucker_metro

Oilers first

The Vancouver Canucks, winners of five straight, host the Edmonton Oilers on Friday night at Rogers Arena.

- Roberto Luongo said Thursday he will start in goal against the Oilers, although it has yet to be determined if he will play Saturday against the Boston Bruins as well.

CFL. Lions name Mark Washington new defensive co-ordinator

There was considerable interest in Mark Washington in other Canadian Football League markets, but he's staying with the B.C. Lions as the team's new defensive co-ordinator.

The Lions made the official announcement Thursday at a press conference in Surrey.

For the Lions, the risk of losing Washington to another club — the Winnipeg Blue Bombers had called seeking permission to speak with him and he interviewed for the head coaching gig in Montreal last year — was all too real.

And that played a major factor in the decision to name Washington as defensive co-ordinator, while not renewing Rich Stubler's contract.

It's a promotion for Washington, who spent the last six seasons as the defensive backs coach in B.C., after finishing his playing career here at the end of the 2007 season.

It almost certainly will be the next step toward a future head-coaching job in the league.

"When you have these kinds of assets, you want to make sure that you give them an opportunity to flourish and grow," said Lions head coach Mike Benevides.

"It was impossible to try and keep both (Washington and Stubler)."

Washington had previously worked with Benevides on the defensive side of the ball, and also with Stubler for the past two seasons. This next progression is something he believes he's ready for.

"I wouldn't hurt the team by accepting a position I wasn't ready for. I know I'm ready," said Washington.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

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Rare play attempts to tame Thomas

Air-tight defence. Thomas leads the Seahawks in solo tackles and is second in total tackles

Earl Thomas considered it a sign of respect and it had nothing to do with where passes were being thrown.

The Seattle Seahawks' free safety noticed a new way that San Francisco tried to take him out of the game last Sunday. While the 49ers were careful not to throw in Thomas's direction very often, it was San Francisco sending receivers downfield to try and block Thomas that caught him by surprise.

Quoted

"It caught me off guard but after the game I looked at it as a sign of respect."

Earl Thomas, Seattle Seahawks free safety

It was the first time Thomas could remember an opponent trying to take him out of the play in that way. But as teams are learning, limiting Thomas's impact is one of the best ways to try and have success against Seattle's defence that ranks first in the NFL in total defence heading into Sunday's game against the Giants.

"They were sending receivers to the third level for free-safety crack blocks. You never see that," Thomas said. "It caught me off guard but after the game I looked at it like a sign of respect and I've got to add that to my repertoire of how offences want to take me out of the game."

An All-Pro last season, Thomas is having another award-worthy season.

He already has four interceptions, although none since Week 7, and leads Seattle in solo tackles (69) and is second in total tackles (85). About the only stat Thomas hasn't recorded this season is a sack.

Thomas is part of one of the most talented secondary units in the NFL. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women's hockey

Canada coach steps down with Sochi fast approaching

Dan Church abruptly resigned as head coach of the Canadian women's hockey team saying he felt others lacked confidence in his ability to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Church stepped down from the job Thursday.

The move was a bombshell as the 21-player Olympic team was expected to be announced before the end of December. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	31	21	8	2	86	62	44
Montreal	33	19	11	3	86	73	41
Tampa Bay	31	18	10	3	87	77	39
Detroit	33	15	9	9	88	87	39
Toronto	33	16	14	3	90	96	35
Ottawa	33	13	14	6	94	106	32
Florida	32	10	17	5	73	106	25
Buffalo	32	7	23	2	54	94	16

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	32	21	10	1	98	71	43
Washington	31	17	12	2	98	90	36
Carolina	32	13	13	6	75	91	32
Columbus	32	14	15	3	82	88	31
Philadelphia	32	14	15	3	72	86	31
NY Rangers	33	15	17	1	72	88	31
New Jersey	32	12	14	6	73	82	30
NY Islanders	32	9	18	5	80	111	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	34	23	6	5	129	93	51
St. Louis	30	21	6	3	106	70	45
Colorado	30	21	9	0	87	71	42
Minnesota	33	18	10	5	78	77	41
Dallas	30	14	11	5	84	89	33
Nashville	32	15	14	3	74	90	33
Winnipeg	33	14	14	5	86	94	33

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	34	22	7	5	108	87	49
Los Angeles	32	21	7	4	88	63	46
San Jose	31	19	6	6	103	78	44
Vancouver	33	18	10	5	88	81	41
Phoenix	30	17	8	5	97	94	39
Calgary	30	11	15	4	79	100	26
Edmonton	32	11	18	3	89	109	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Thursday's results
Philadelphia 2 Montreal 1
Columbus 4 NY Rangers 2
Ottawa 2 Buffalo 1
Tampa Bay 2 Detroit 1 (SO)
St. Louis 6 Toronto 3
Nashville 3 Dallas 1
Colorado 4 Winnipeg 3 (SO)
Carolina at Calgary
NY Islanders at Phoenix
Boston at Edmonton
Minnesota at San Jose

Wednesday's results
Los Angeles 3 Toronto 1
Chicago 7 Philadelphia 2
Anaheim 2 Minnesota 1

Friday's games
All Times Eastern
New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

Saturday's games
Calgary at Buffalo, 2 p.m.
Los Angeles at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
Dallas at Winnipeg, 3 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Montreal at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Boston at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

NBA

Thursday's result
San Diego 27 Denver 20

Sunday's games
All Times Eastern
Chicago at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Seattle at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
New England at Miami, 1 p.m.
Houston at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Carolina, 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Arizona at Tennessee, 4:25 p.m.
New Orleans at St. Louis, 4:25 p.m.
Green Bay at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.

Monday's game
Baltimore at Detroit, 8:40 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	19	3	.864	—
d-Miami	16	6	.727	3
Atlanta	11	11	.500	8
d-Boston	10	14	.417	10
Charlotte	10	12	.455	9
Washington	9	11	.450	9
Detroit	10	13	.435	9 1/2
Chicago	8	12	.400	10
Cleveland	8	13	.381	10 1/2
Brooklyn	8	14	.364	11
Toronto	7	13	.350	11
Orlando	7	15	.318	12
Philadelphia	7	16	.304	12 1/2
New York	6	15	.286	12 1/2
Milwaukee	5	17	.227	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	1/2
d-San Antonio	17	4	.810	1/2
d-L.A. Clippers	15	9	.625	4
Houston	15	7	.682	3
Denver	13	8	.619	4 1/2
Phoenix	12	9	.571	5 1/2
Golden State	13	10	.565	5 1/2
Dallas	13	10	.565	5 1/2
Minnesota	11	11	.500	7
New Orleans	10	10	.500	7
Memphis	10	11	.476	7 1/2
L.A. Lakers	10	11	.476	7 1/2
Sacramento	6	14	.300	11
Utah	5	19	.208	14

x - clinched playoff berth; y - division; z - conference.

Thursday's results
Brooklyn 102 L.A. Clippers 93
Houston at Portland

Wednesday's results
Orlando 92 Charlotte 83
L.A. Clippers 96 Boston 88
San Antonio 109 Milwaukee 77
New Orleans 111 Detroit 106 OT
Minnesota 106 Philadelphia 99
New York 83 Chicago 78
Oklahoma City 116 Memphis 100
Utah 122 Sacramento 101
Golden State 95 Dallas 93

There was a mistake in our December 11, 2013 ad that appeared in the Metro Vancouver. The correct number and distribution of prizes in the short form contest rules is as follows:

There is a total of 6586 prizes available to be won with 922 prizes available to be won in Quebec; 3168 in Ontario; 1307 in Alberta; 1189 in Vancouver and 1 prize nationally.

HOLT RENFREW

Richport FORD

JUDY'S TIP OF THE WEEK

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Judy Jobse, Service Manager

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0482 1015 C TPMS 12

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0572 1015 A TPMS 12

GENERAL

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0352 1015 A TPMS12

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
A decision you made a long time ago doesn't seem like a great idea now but you're stuck with it. Make the best of the situation and promise yourself you won't be so hasty in future.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Expect your workload to increase a lot over the next 24 hours. That may not sound like good news but at least it shows that important people trust you to get the job done.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may seem to others that you never lack confidence but that's not true and as the Sun moves through your opposite sign there will be times of self-doubt. Bite back — hard.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You will get what you deserve today: no more and no less. Jupiter in your sign links with Saturn in a way that guarantees you get out of life in direct proportion to what you've put in. And you've put in a lot.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may have to do something that makes you unpopular today but that won't worry you. You know there are times when you have to put duty before pleasure and this is clearly one of them. Do it well.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Saturn may be casting a cloud over money matters but you can still have fun. Besides, if you keep a tight hold of the purse strings now you will have more to spend over the holiday period and party season.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't over-extend yourself at work or your energy may take a nose-dive early next week. Today's Jupiter-Saturn link will help you to persuade others to do things for you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
According to the planets you will do better, both financially and emotionally, if you open up and let friends and family members know how you feel and what it is you need.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Why is it that people are so demanding? Most likely it's because they know you are too nice to say "no". At some stage today you need to get tough and let certain people know they have to do more.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your frustration may get the better of you and you will say or do something that gets you noticed for the wrong reason. At least others will be aware that you're not afraid to hit back at provocation.

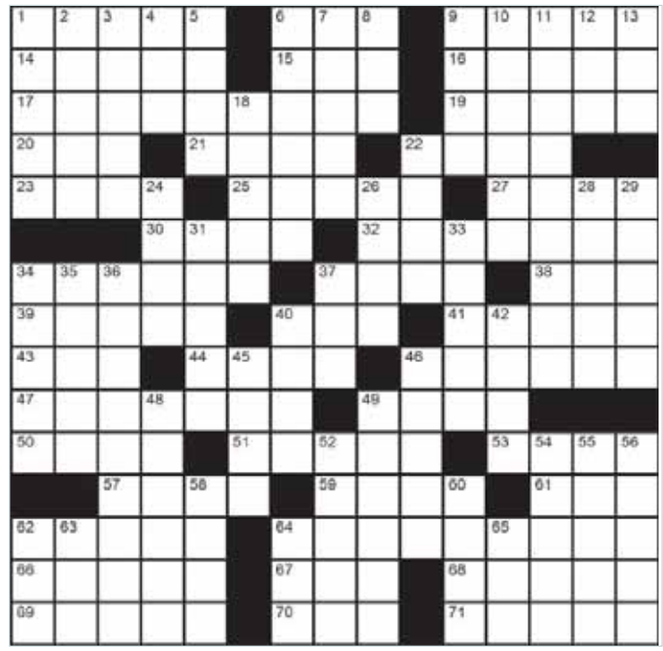
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Accept that you won't get things your way all the time, especially at work where some people seem to take a delight in being unreasonable. It's only a passing phase.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Jupiter and Saturn link across the most favourable angles of your chart today and the most likely outcome is that you will be rewarded for services you have done for others in the past. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



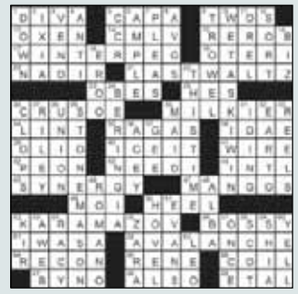
Across

1. "The Hobbit: The Desolation of __" (2013)
6. Pea's packaging
9. Fearing-one's suffix
14. UNESCO World Heritage Site in Jordan
15. "Do They Know It's Christmas?" co-songwriter Midge
16. Cad
17. Guy __, Cirque du Soleil founder
19. Articulate
20. 'Can' completer
21. Additional
22. Title for a Miss, in Spanish [abbr.]
23. D'Urbervilles heroine
25. Dog collar attachment
27. Man, in Milan
30. Ski lift
32. Hair-off-the-face styles: 2 wds.
34. "Brian's Song" (1971) role, Gale __
37. Insect stage
38. Bronze Roman money
39. Sidekick
40. Paper product
41. "Spider-Man" (2002) director Sam
43. Televise
44. "__ Flux" (2005)
46. President of France's residence, __ Palace
47. Wayne Gretzky team, e.g.: 2 wds.
49. Actress Jessica
50. Stamps spots, shortly
51. "The Sound of Music" (1965) role
53. Rhyming pattern
57. Doctrines
59. Small salmon
61. Kick __ _ fuss
62. Once in _ __ moon
64. BC city
66. "A Madea Christmas" (2013) star Mr. Perry
67. Li'l cartoon 'Devil'
68. Canonical hour
69. Moose, if done how Goose gets pluralized
70. 'Prop' suffix (Fuel)
71. Japan: Global Warming treaty city

Down

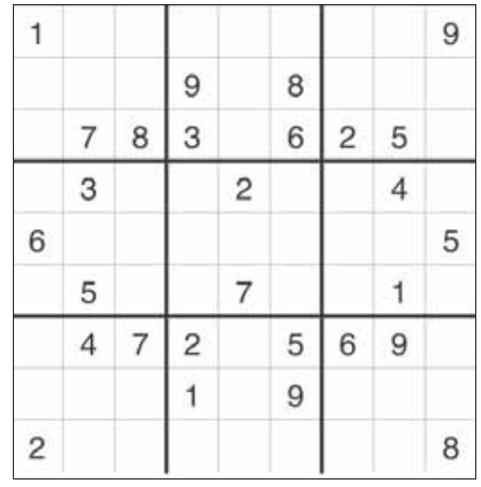
1. Water-balloon-to-ground sound
2. "Morning Express with Robin __" on HLN
3. Rand McNally product
4. William Tell's canton
5. Mr. Kaplan
6. Ship's accountant
7. "Coffee __ __?"
8. Billy __ Williams
9. Not singular [abbr.]
10. "The Bachelor" date site: 2 wds.
11. Region of Quebec near Ottawa
12. Mad Cow Disease letters
13. 'Ballad' suffix
18. Ms. Fitzgerald's
22. Store
24. British WWII submachine gun
26. __ earring
28. Boeotian Muse of memory
29. Actor Mr. Davis
31. Actor Mr. Cranston
33. "I speak French." = "Je __ francais."
34. Weighing need
35. 'Parliament' suffix
36. Stylish area of Toronto
37. Criticize
40. Model
42. The Clan of the Cave Bear heroine
45. Breakfast breakees
46. After __ (Mints)
48. Topics
49. Sculpture material
52. Body of water
54. "Thanks, __ __ thanks!"
55. "You're _ __ and don't even know it!"
56. Nova Scotia's Straight of __
58. Slight
60. Sty cry
62. 24 hr. banker
63. "Farewell."
64. School org.
65. Demure

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	5	4	8	1	7	2	9
2	9	8	6	5	7	4	1	3
7	4	1	9	2	3	6	5	8
1	3	4	5	9	8	2	7	6
6	2	9	7	1	4	3	8	5
5	8	7	2	3	6	9	4	1
9	7	3	8	4	5	1	6	2
4	5	2	1	6	9	8	3	7
8	1	6	3	7	2	5	9	4

Today 5°/3° Showers 40%
Saturday 7°/5° Rain 80%
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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